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Table with exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Australia, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 1995

Sport 96

David Davies reports on the US PGA from Kentucky... Mike Selvey reports on the Test match from Headingley...

HG Wells and the truth about aliens Review Plus: Suede returns, James Wood on Nabokov, Larry Clark's Kids

One dead, 66 injured in crowded commuter train Emergency workers free trapped passengers

Trains collide in 'blinding flash'

Safety fears focus on sell-off

David Connell, Rebecca Smithers, Paul Brown and Vivek Chaudhary

AT LEAST one woman died and 66 people were injured, four seriously, when two trains collided head-on last night...



Rescue workers at the crash site south of Watford Junction in Hertfordshire. Forty trapped passengers had to be released from a carriage after the rush-hour collision

40 people in it. They could not get out but very soon firemen were there helping them...

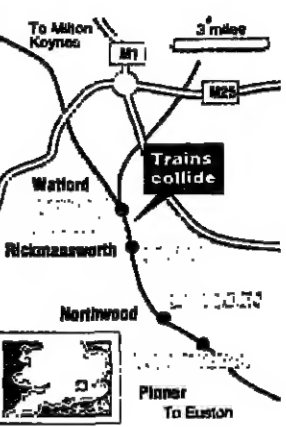
Heimel Hempstead hospital had four casualties with minor injuries and was expected to take more...

serious disruption over the last year, with speed restrictions in place on both North London Railways and the West Coast main line...

fortunately there has been one fatality. The first train involved was an empty eight carriage train...

Half a mile away they were able to climb down into a Tesco supermarket car park and saw one train on top of the other...

First I thought the cables had just fallen then I heard a bang and saw one train on top of the other...



Both trains were moving quite fast towards each other. Then there was the most almighty crash and there were sparks and smoke and wires everywhere...

I thought one of the carriages was coming into the garden, but it stopped in a precarious position on its side.

I saw two men coming out of the train. There was blood all over their faces.

Spin victory for Prescott 67 dead, 40 missing in flood

David Hencke, Suzanne Milne and Rebecca Smithers JOHN Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, yesterday finally won a battle to silence Peter Mandelson...



week's New Statesman, caught the whole party by surprise - including Mr Blair, who was staying in a Tuscan villa owned by the magazine's proprietor...

Mr Prescott had to cancel his return to his constituency to respond when the BBC reported Ms Short's attack on the Nine O'Clock News...

Bodies found 10 miles from where campsite was wrecked in minutes THE DEATH toll in the Spanish Pyrenees campsite disaster rose to 67 last night...

Another survivor said: 'It began to rain like we'd never seen before. We managed, with the water up to our waist, to reach the toilets and climb on to the roof that served us.'

Disaster struck at about 8pm on Wednesday. A storm was expected but no one predicted the flood.

Inside

Britain Ossie Clark, who revolutionised fashion in the '60s, has been found stabbed to death in his London council flat.

World News

Russian president Boris Yeltsin takes the oath of office in the Kremlin today amid concern about his health and his broken promises.

Finance

Police raided the country homes of the two owners of the Winchester Commodities Group as part of an inquiry into alleged fraud.

Sport

Pakistan were 281 for 6 in the second Test after Dominic Cork put England back into the match with two crucial wickets. Sport96.

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Advertisement for American Express Travellers Cheques To Go, featuring a man in a uniform and the text 'GET YOUR AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELLERS CHEQUES To Go. Lloyds Bank'.

Sketch

Bare bottoms put bums on seats



David Ward

JUST across the way from a stand dedicated to the needs of learners of Welsh, a man wearing not much more than a truss and cloaked in a flowing white sheet was suspended 15 feet above the ground at the end of a thick rope.

At this year's National Eisteddfod, a peripatetic celebration (with Druids) of Welsh language and culture, there has been a bit of a punch-up about the alleged Anglicisation of Radio Cymru. But the man in the sheet prompted no linguistic controversy because he and his colleagues from the Brith Gof theatre company were saying nothing.

Someone said the silent dangle was part of a play in 112 acts spread across 28 hours during the eight days of the festival, held this year at Llandellio in south Wales on a site below the castle ruins of Rhys ap Gruffydd, promoter of the first eisteddfod in 1176.

As the play progressed enigmatically, some of Wales's finest bardic poets were being figuratively trussed up across the field in the packed literary pavilion. This monoglot's translation machine was giving off noises similar to the sound of low tide at Aberystwyth so a devotee in the queue explained that it was a competition for three teams of four. The rules were very strict, with metrical and syllabic constraints as tight as the black bands biting into the dangling man's bare bottom. The teams were given lines around which a poem had to be woven in 20 minutes.

While they prayed for inspiration, the judges read out entries in the public competition for Welsh limericks beginning with the line "Someone once heard on the radio..." Unaware of the availability of translation devices, the monoglot had problems with the public speaking contest in "Archruid is not disheartened".

Review

East meets West, stalls meet players

Andrew Clements

Tan Dun and Maxwell Davies present The Proms, Royal Albert Hall

THE first performance in London of Tan Dun's Orchestral Theatre II: Re was scheduled for the Proms a year ago, but at the last minute power cut caused the concert to be abandoned, with a platform assurance from the Proms controller, John Drummond, that the work would be given in London as soon as possible. His successor, Nicholas Kenyon, has kept that promise. Together with Tan's earlier orchestral study On Taoism, it made up the central panel of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's three-part programme.

On Taoism was composed in 1985, while Tan was still a student at the Beijing Conservatory. Its fusion of Eastern and Western elements — Peking Opera-style vocalisations from the conductor and the use of microtones and playing techniques that mimic Chinese instruments, combined with a language that persistently recalls Varèse more than any other Western composer — has remained his basic recipe ever since. That's both the strength and the weakness of Tan's work. There are striking ideas in On Taoism, with the sense of age-old Buddhist ritual framing the piece and the raw, exposed instrumental lines which are punctuated by the tulleations. Though Tan's music has gained in assurance over the past 10 years, it is difficult to see from Orchestral Theatre II

the 4,000-seater main pavilion. A young woman in a top as scarlet as a Welsh dragon launched into her eloquent five minutes and understanding was confined to "Bradford... jolly good... set aside... wellingtons... laxative" but not much more. Concentration wandered and ended up on the seat rows, which were lettered A, B, C, Ch, D, Dd, E, F, Ft, G and then Ng.

Once equipped with a sturdy earpiece in the left ear and the expertise of an adept interpreter, the monoglot made much more sense of the ladies choir contest. The Cor Lleislaur's Gest missed out on the Charles Dawe Cup but their smart black trousers and abstract shirts won the Guardian elegance award.

Suddenly there was an insistent whisper in the right ear. Where in England would so many people — there were 27,000 visitors on Wednesday — express so much passion for language, poetry and music? At the eisteddfod, the contests are so important that the sounds from the pavilion are even relayed to the gents.

Armed with Celtic enthusiasm, the monoglot went to the autobank and selected the Welsh option for his balance inquiry. Marc Atzelwood, a retired footballer hailed as Welsh learner of the year, expressed his passion at a press conference (simultaneous translation provided). Mr Atzelwood, capped more than 40 times for Wales, confessed that he had left school in Newport without knowing a word of Welsh.

He began to learn in 90-minute lessons during his days with Cardiff FC. "Now I feel like a real Welshman," he said. "I'm going to send my son to a Welsh medium school. It's very important for children to speak Welsh if they are going to live in Wales."

Eisteddfod officials beamed. Earlier this week, the judges took the worrying decision to withhold the prose medal and the Sword of Peace was accordingly laid across an empty bardic chair. If the eisteddfod, which has contest classes ranging from individual step dancing for boys to hymn singing for the over-sixties, had a competition for headlines, the Western Mail would win hands down with "Archruid is not disheartened".



Leroy Douglas, brother of the man who died, outside the court after the verdict. He was accompanied by his sister Brenda (left) and another relative, Sophie

Baton death verdict 'unjust'

Police 'need better training'

Duncan Campbell and Owen Bowcott

THE family of a man who died in police custody after being struck by the new-style police baton reacted angrily yesterday to the inquest jury's verdict of misadventure. The coroner called for better training in the use of the batons, but relatives said they were considering a private prosecution against the police.

The Metropolitan police publicly expressed its regret at the death, the first involving the new baton, and said it would study any recommendations on baton use.

A jury at Southwark crown court in south London returned a 9-2 majority verdict of misadventure at an inquest on the black music and boxing promoter Brian Douglas, who died aged 33, after being arrested in Clapham, south London, in May last year. The jury had been unable to reach a verdict when it adjourned on Wednesday.

Coroner Sir Montague Levine said: "There is a need for all officers who have been trained to use a baton to be taught the specific dangers.



Victim Brian Douglas

the after-effects and potential signs and symptoms that can follow a baton blow to the head." Many of Mr Douglas's friends and relatives left the court in tears. Speaking outside, Mr Douglas's brother, Donald, said: "To say that the family is disappointed would be a gross understatement. We believe this verdict is a gross injustice. It is another example of the system not working the way it is supposed to work."

Deborah Coles, co-director of Inquest, which campaigns on the issue of deaths in custody, said: "I'm deeply



Coroner Sir Montague Levine

shocked by the verdict. The family cannot believe that the jury came to such a decision." Marc Wadsworth, of the Anti-Racist Alliance, said outside the court that the jury of 10 white people and one black person had not been representative of London.

Superintendent John Rees of the Metropolitan police said after the verdict: "The death of Brian Douglas was a tragedy. The Metropolitan police service very much regret his death and the distress it has caused his family. They have acted with immense dignity throughout. This has also been a very distressing time for the officers involved."

He said that a thorough investigation had been carried out under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority and more than 40 people gave evidence. The police would examine the coroner's remarks and take appropriate action. Mr Douglas, who was born in Balham, south London,



PC Paul Harrison

died after being arrested, allegedly in possession of a CS gas canister, a lock-knife and cannabis. He had been kept in a police cell for 15 hours before being taken to hospital.

The death of Mr Douglas, who had convictions as a young man for causing actual bodily harm and for cannabis offences, sparked a series of peaceful protests.

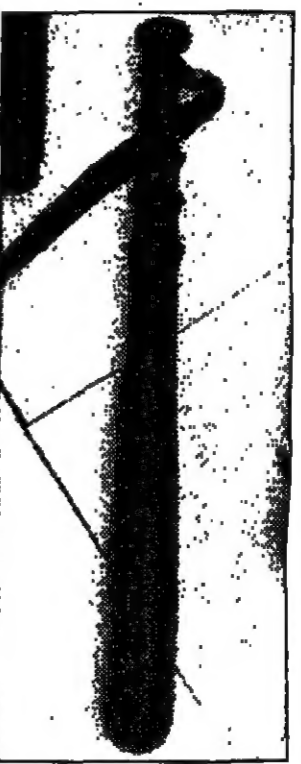
The solid, 34-inch acrylic baton thought to have been used in his arrest was nearly twice as heavy as the 16-inch wooden truncheons formerly carried by Metropolitan police officers. The longer US-style batons were a response to the increase in police injuries, and police said there had been a 16 per cent reduction in injuries to officers since the batons were introduced.



PC Patrick Dunn

killed in 1993 by a gunman in Clapham, sparked calls for the police to be provided with better equipment.

An inquest is due to be held soon into the death of Wayne Douglas — no relation to Brian — whose death following his arrest triggered the Erixton riots in December 1995. It was announced this week that no officer is to be prosecuted in connection with his death.



US-style baton introduced to reduce police injuries

Rail sell-off raised safety fears

Experts have long warned of dangers of BR break-up

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

ALTHOUGH the cause of the Watford accident was unclear last night, opposition parties and safety experts have long warned that the complex break-up of the rail network for privatisation could put safety at risk. With so many organisations involved in running the railways, they say the working relationships which have replaced the single line of command under the old British Rail structure can only weaken control.

In addition, the increasing trend towards contracting out track and maintenance work to private sector firms poses a serious threat, they claim. The former BR has been fragmented into more than 80 organisations. The accident happened on a stretch of busy track operated by North London Railways — one of the 25 rail passenger businesses. It has not yet been transferred to the private sector, but is run as a self-contained business under the

Death on the tracks

- December 1988. Clapham Junction — 35 people killed in pile-up involving three early-morning commuter trains.
- March 1989. Purley, Surrey — five people died when a Horsham to Victoria slow train hit a Littlehampton to Victoria train on the fast line.
- March 1989. Glasgow — two people died after two suburban electric trains on a single track collided head-on.
- November 1989. Newcastle upon Tyne — 15 people injured when two InterCity expresses collided outside the main station.
- August 1990. Stafford — train driver killed and 35 injured at Stafford station in a two-train crash.
- January 1991. Cannon

Street, London — two people killed, 547 injured when a packed morning commuter train from Sevenoaks, Kent, hit the buffers at the station.

- October 1994. Cowden, Kent — five people killed, including both drivers, 12 injured when two trains collided head-on on a single-line stretch of track.
- January 1995. Settle to Carlisle line, Alsagill — One person killed, 26 injured after two trains collided in gales.
- March 1996. Stafford — one person killed and 22 injured after a derailed freight train was struck head-on by a Royal Mail locomotive. Both trains belonged to privatised organisations bought by the US railroad company, Wisconsin Central.

and West Coast services out of Euston have faced serious speed restrictions throughout this year because of urgent maintenance work needed on the track. The Government has long promised a major upgrade of the West Coast mainline, but it is dependent upon private sector cash. Earlier this year the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers' union warned that the section of track at Harrow and Wealdstone station, north-west London, would collapse without urgent repair work. High-speed trains were having to slow down from 110mph to 70mph for safety reasons because of the track's poor condition. A spokesman said: "Railtrack is attempting to keep this line going with a policy of patch and mend. It has admitted the West Coast mainline is living on borrowed time". He warned of an increasing risk of derailment on the Euston stretch "due to a lack of investment and renewal".

Last year the Government was strongly criticised after it decided to abandon the £900 million Automatic Train Protection, a sophisticated computer system which prevents trains going through red lights and overrides driver error. It was recommended by the inquiry set up to investigate the Clapham disaster, but was deemed to be too expensive to be introduced on a nationwide basis.

Severe family stress linked to short stature in children

Chris Ishola Medical Correspondent

SEVERE family stress coupled with emotional and physical abuse can cause short stature in children as well as bizarre eating disorders, doctors report today. Some affected children developed a compulsive over-eating disorder. Others tried

to drink so much they had to be restrained. The symptoms cleared up within days once children were in hospital away from the family stress.

David Skuse and colleagues, from the Institute of Child Health, London, who looked at 51 patients with short stature admitted to their unit with a history of family stress, published their findings in the Lancet.

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Wester rally  
to go ahead  
risking new  
flashpoint

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# Ulster rally to go ahead risking new flashpoint

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

**A**NATIONALIST rally in Londonderry on the eve of a contentious loyalist parade will go ahead tonight in spite of calls from Catholic community and religious leaders to abandon it.

The parade decision, taken by the Bogside Residents Group which has failed to reach agreement with Apprentice Boys over their desire to walk a circuit of the walls of Londonderry, has raised the political temperature further in Northern Ireland, which seems poised once more on the brink of widespread unrest.

Bogside spokesman Donncha MacNiallais said that tonight's rally was about "equality and respect for unionist and nationalist rights". Demonstrators would be asked to return on Saturday to Free Derry Corner in the Bogside, at the height of the Apprentice Boys rally in the city centre, when more than 10,000 loyalists will be in Londonderry. Troops will seal off a section of the city wall where the Apprentice Boys had hoped to march.

"Our rally will go ahead quite simply because we have a leadership role to play in all of this and we want people to act responsibly in a peaceful manner," said Mr MacNiallais.

But he added that he would meet church leaders and listen to their objections and — if need be — cancel it and the follow-up demonstration. The rally's route will pass by the Apprentice Boys' hall as loyalists take part in eve-of-march celebrations.

A few hours before the residents' announcement, RUC sources said there was no justification for the nationalist parade. "I think the Apprentice Boys have an extremely good case. This is open territory and there is a very good case for a local agreement," said one source.

"There is every reason to believe that the Apprentice Boys do not want violence. If there is an attempt to provoke

the marchers then that could lead to serious disorder."

The source added that residents groups involved in the parade issue had a significant Sinn Fein influence on them. "There is little doubt that there is paramilitary manipulation of residents groups and it's a specific ploy. The Provisional IRA will continue to milk the current situation. They have, in their eyes, the ground and are therefore unlikely to go back to war in Northern Ireland while that is going on."

"They will undoubtedly attempt to launch more attacks on the British mainland but will continue here to milk the public order position politically."

Mr MacNiallais insisted that the residents' groups were not being manipulated.

As tension mounted last night, the SDLP leader, John Hume, said everybody had a duty to put the city first and not to engage in the kind of violence seen during the Drumcree crisis.

Mr Hume agreed that Protestants were feeling marginalised and appealed for the anger to be channelled in a peaceful, constructive fashion. And he called on nationalists to show tolerance.

The former SDLP mayor of the city, John Kerr, said there was no great sense of victory, triumphalism or exhilaration within the Bogside at the troops sealing off a quarter of a mile of the city wall overlooking their community.

In the first sign that tomorrow's parade could lead to a repeat of the disorder which brought Northern Ireland to a standstill last month, a group calling itself the Loyal Women of Ulster blocked off the centre of Lisburn, Co Antrim, for part of yesterday afternoon.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, met leaders of the Apprentice Boys at Stormont. The meeting lasted for more than an hour and afterwards, Gregory Campbell of the Democratic Unionists, said that Sir Patrick candidly admitted his decision to seal off the wall was unjust.

# Flamboyant career brought creative triumphs, bankruptcy and Buddhist withdrawal



David Hockney's painting Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy. Clark married his collaborator, Celia Birtwell, in 1969 when they were producing clothes for the leading models of the age

# Ossie Clark, '60s fashion guru, stabbed to death

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**O**SSIE Clark, one of the most influential figures in post-war British fashion, has been stabbed to death at his west London home, police confirmed yesterday.

A call from a public phone box in south London led police to a council flat in Holland Park where the body of the man who helped to revolutionise British fashion in the sixties and seventies was found. He had received several stab wounds.

A murder inquiry was launched under Detective Superintendent Ken Woodward as forensic experts examined the flat. A man was arrested and charged yesterday.

News of Clark's death on Tuesday night was greeted with dismay by those who had known him during a flamboyant, if eccentric, career that included commercial and critical triumph, bankruptcy and, only a few months ago, an angry bust-up with his local police.

Born in Liverpool 54 years ago into a family of three boys and three girls, Raymond Oswald Clark was always known as Ossie. The shortened version of the name his parents gave him in memory of the Lancashire village from which they came. He studied building and art at Warrington Technical College and always claimed that the building studies helped with his later fashion design.

After attending Manchester College of Art in the early sixties, he won a £500-a-year scholarship to the Royal College of Art where he was soon regarded as one of the most imaginative students.

On the basis of his final year's work he was commissioned to design a range of fashions by a Knightsbridge

store and from there progressed to Quorum, one of the best known of the King's Road boutiques which were blossoming at that time. He designed clothes for Mick and Bianca Jagger and most of the best-known models of the era and became as much a part of the spirit of the age as any of the designers, photographers, musicians and actors.

In 1969, he married his collaborator, the fabric designer Celia Birtwell, and the couple were famously painted by their friend David Hockney, Clark sitting with a cat on his knee; the portrait hangs in the Tate. There were two sons, Albert and George, but the marriage ended in 1974.

Friends said yesterday they had admired Clark for being openly gay at a time when it was more difficult to be so. On the business side, his creative originality was not matched by a commercial instinct — and later ambitious ventures — he once planned for a chain of his own shops in Beverly Hills, Munich, Zurich and New York — founded. He was declared bankrupt in 1983 and attempts to revive his career did not succeed.

He became a Buddhist and over the last two years said he was more interested in writing, drawing, going for walks and doing occasional one-off designs for friends or special customers rather than in attempting to recapture what he now saw as an "unreal lifestyle". He said he was seeking "more genuine values".

A generous man who had given away much of his early and considerable wealth, he had a short fuse. This led to him being thrown out of the Chelsea Arts Club after a row with a member of staff in 1985 and more recently to his appearance in court after an altercation with police in a Notting Hill petrol station in July last year.

After four glasses of champagne at a fitting session, he had bumped his car into the back of another which he felt was taking too long at the petrol pump and then became involved in a scuffle with police, refusing to take a breath test. He was accused of biting one officer and calling another an "arsehole".

He was sentenced to two months in jail for assaulting and obstructing three officers but this was reduced to a year's probation on appeal because of his previous good character.

● An unemployed man, Diego Cocolato, aged 28, of no fixed abode, has been charged with the murder and will appear at Marylebone magistrates court this morning. A Scotland Yard spokesman said last night.

Obituary, page 10



Ossie Clark in later years, more interested in doing occasional one-off designs

## Protestant

**'I have more thought in my little finger than his whole body'**

**A**LISTAIR Simpson is, at 57, perhaps a little on the mature side to be described as a "boy". But as Governor of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, he finds himself at the centre of this weekend's events.

He was born across the River Foyle in the Waterside but, against the tide of demographic change which has seen 15,000 Protestants desert the city-side of Londonderry for the east bank, he has lived in the loyalist Fountain estate for more than 30 years.

The Fountain is Derry's last Protestant enclave on

the west bank, where fewer than 1,000 people remain in poor housing and with high unemployment.

Mr Simpson has impressed senior police officers who say the Apprentice Boys is a well-organised, if eccentric, organisation. His preparedness to meet and negotiate with convicted IRA members over the parade issue is in contrast to Orange leaders in Portadown who refused to meet a Garvaghy Road residents' group over their Drumcree route.

But although he and Donncha MacNiallais live less than a mile apart, divided by the disputed stretch of wall, there is little love lost between them.

"I have more thought in my little finger and more feeling for the people of this area, for the people of the Bogside, and for the people of the whole city and for the business of the whole city than MacNiallais has in his whole body," Mr Simpson said.

— David Sharrock

## Resident

**'I am a Sinn Fein member, but the issue is bigger than me'**

**D**ONNCHA MacNiallais got lost on the city walls of Londonderry when he was three years old, ending up in the police barracks until his parents retrieved him.

Today, as the main spokesman of the Bogside Residents' Group, which is locked in conflict with the Apprentice Boys over this weekend's parade along the same walls, Mr MacNiallais looks as if he knows exactly where he is going.

Born and bred in the Bogside, his family started the first tenant association in 1967. His mother Mary Nell is a prominent Sinn Fein

councillor on the city council and he, too, is a party member.

Like his Ormeau Garvaghy Road counterparts, he has been accused of hijacking a community issue for political motives. Like them, he has served time in the IRA wing of the Maze prison. In 1978 he was found guilty of possession of a Magnum handgun and served 16 years. During the dirty protests of the late 1970s and early 1980s he lost four years' remission for sticking to his republican ideals.

"I am a republican and a member of Sinn Fein, but the issue is bigger than me," he says.

He was elected spokesman for the Bogside Residents Group at a public meeting held last year to establish the organisation. Local sources say the meeting was not advertised and that only 15 people took part in the election of its eight-member executive.

— David Sharrock

## Tributes to a '60s swinger

**"**MET Ossie Clark on several occasions and always thought he was a very talented designer. His death is a real tragedy."

Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer

"Ossie Clark represents the image of swinging London at its height. I wore his famous yellow plastic suit before I ever dreamt of doing dresses as well as textile prints. I hope the beauty and originality of his work will be accurately recorded for its important place in history."

Zandra Rhodes, fashion designer

he was part of my early childhood. He was the most exceptional caterer in the country. Those dresses were miraculously done."

Jasper Conran, fashion designer

"He was a wonderful man and a free spirit."

Caroline Coon, artist and founder of Release

"He had always been trouble, but it's all bound up together, genius and trouble."

Celia Birtwell, Clark's fashion designer former wife after their marriage broke up

"Ossie was a genius. He had a special God-given talent working with textiles. He made the sixties swing but time conspired against him."

Susannah Handley, Royal College of Art

**I was in a bit of a state. There I am, looking like a pig. But it was a necessary period for me to go through because I was sick of my personality.**  
Brett Anderson of Suede

Review page 6

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MERCURY

'Tony Blair's image works well . . . Clare Short looks like she's been dragged through a hedge backwards sometimes.' Dan Glaister on the changing faces of Mr Blair and the woman who says advisers have given a nice man a too-macho image



THE BLAIR YEARS: Anthony Charles Lynton Blair as a child; in 1975, aged 21; optimistic MP, 1984; with quiff, 1989; 'thoughtfully manic' in 1993; party leader, 1994; and today's carefully-coiffed model

IT IS a tale of two partings. One was there in the early days, but soon disappeared to be replaced by a middle-of-the-road tuftiness. The other was absent at the start, but soon made its mark and never stopped widening as political radicalism took hold.

Tony Blair, young, dashing, optimistic, out on the campaign trail in 1982, was the personification of caring, progressive socialism.

His suit, the garb of the young manager, said that he had the know-how, his flyaway hair told the voters that here was a man who cared. The suggestion of a parting showed honesty and a devil-be-lucky attitude to matters of state.

By the early nineties Mr Blair was Opposition spokesman for home affairs. His rock 'n' roll high school days were behind him. The picture of Mr

Blair with a guitar and long hair assumed the same cultural significance as the photograph of Princess Diana the nanny in the see-through skirt.

Tony Blair was growing up. Bambi had turned predator. The bright-eyed gaze was gone, replaced by a thoughtfully manic stare. The parting, in a follicular enactment of the party's factional struggles of the eighties, had been ex-

punged. It was replaced for a time by a quiff-like entity. Today he has the carefully-coiffed dependability of a television anchorman.

"Tony Blair's image works well because you're not aware of it," said Mary Spillane, head of image consultants Color Me Beautiful, who work with politicians in Britain, Europe and the US.

Few people realise that Clare Short entered Parlia-

ment with a fringe. The young Mrs Alex Lyon was a fresh-faced, chubby-cheeked young socialist, brimming with idealism and a lust for the cause. The strange knotted shawl slung precariously over a hand-knitted jumper reflected her politics: a nod to internationalism underpinned by a preoccupation with the domestic.

Ms Short has stuck to her beliefs. The string of beads

she adopted in the mid-eighties, in deference to the national stage, has stayed with her through the highs and lows. Conviction is the byword in her wardrobe.

But the giveaway is the parting. As the party has moved to the centre, so Ms Short's parting has widened, a reflection of both her radicalism and her marginalisation within the shadow cabinet.

The brief flirtation with

the power suit in 1995 was a half-hearted attempt to fit in. But she is an independent spirit.

"Clare Short is very inconsistent," said Mary Spillane. "She looks like she's been dragged through a hedge backwards because she doesn't bother sometimes. She's not going to be someone in cabinet government because she's inconsistent, and that's the thing they're most scared of."

## Macho man, or Mr Nice Guy

In her *New Statesman* article criticising Labour's spin doctors, Clare Short described Tony Blair as two people — one a "nice" Tony Blair, the other a Frankenstein creation of the "people in the dark". David Hencke lists utterances apparently revealing the Labour leader's "split personality."

**Macho Blair**

"Politics is pointless unless you can get into government." (Sunday Mirror)

"This week Labour must close ranks. We must be utterly single-minded." (Sunday Mirror, 1995)

"The next Labour MP who says it's just a question of how big our majority will be after the next general election could find himself flung into the Thames." (writing for *News of the World*, August 1995)

"There will be zero tolerance of failure from any government I lead." (Guardian, December 1996)

"I will not leave anything undone that may get in the way of a Labour victory and a good government." (writing for *Independent on Sunday*, July 1996)

**Nice Blair**

"Children puking on your clothes is a good way of keeping a sense of perspective." (Sunday Mirror)

"I think I know more about Ryan Giggs than I do about most people in politics." (Sunday Mirror)

"(Rock music) is the absolute love of my life . . . Well, maybe not Phil Collins" (interview, *News of the World*, November 1995)

"We weren't very good and if you played any recordings of it we'd lose the election." (on his band, *Ugly Rumours*, interview, November 1995)



THE CLARE YEARS: Ms Short, fresh-faced MP with a fringe in 1984; parting and beads a year later; conviction the byword through 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1995, which saw a flirtation with the power suit

## Labour attacks on Short are 'mischief making'

**David Hencke**  
Westminster Correspondent

OUTSPOKEN Clare Short's official line that she had no policy differences with her leader Tony Blair makes a good tale for the fiction

writers, say her angry Labour colleagues. They cite her views on cannabis, higher taxes, rail privatisation and Northern Ireland as cases where she is not in agreement with the Labour Party leadership. The attacks were denounced as "mischief making" by her office, which went

on to "instant rebuttal" overdrive in an attempt to counter them yesterday.

On cannabis, Labour policy has been to take a hard line against legalisation of any drugs. But Ms Short was denounced on television on October 28, 1995, as saying: "I think we should get some archbish-

ops and former chief constables and see if we can't organise the whole thing better and maybe that includes taxing and selling cannabis in a separate place than hard drugs." Her office said yesterday: "She was calling for a royal commission to debate the issue."

On tax, Labour policy is not

to raise taxes and it has no policy to specify rises in the higher tax band. On April 14, 1996, Ms Short said on television: "I think in a fair system people like me would pay a bit more tax." Her office said: "Clare was talking not about putting up taxes on salaries of £24,000 a year — then the MPs

rate — but at a rate including her own widow's pension — around £60,000 a year."

Clare Short was accused by a colleague privately yesterday of an underhand deal with Gordon Brown to change the party's policy on the renationalisation of Railtrack. Her office said yesterday: "The

policy change was reached by agreement between Clare Short, John Prescott, Tony Blair, Robin Cook, and Gordon Brown."

Another colleague accused her of challenging the bi-partisan policy on Northern Ireland. She said yesterday: "This is a downright lie."

## Murdered girl's friends to face more questions from French

**Geoffrey Gibbs and Alex Duval Smith**  
in St Malo



FRIENDS of the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson are to be questioned further by the French authorities following the release of the vagrant who had confessed to her murder.

Caroline, a 13-year-old pupil at Launceston College in Cornwall, was raped and suffocated at a youth hostel in the Brittany village of Pleine Fougères three weeks ago while on a school trip. She was discovered in the room she had been sharing with four other children.

Although DNA tests carried out in France cleared the male staff and students in the school party of any involvement, the French investigators have indicated they wish to travel to Launceston to re-interview members of the group.

A spokesman for the Cornwall education authority said the investigators would be seeking potential witnesses, not suspects. But they had not yet made direct contact, and it was not immediately clear how many of the party would be questioned.

The vagrant, Patrick Padé, aged 39, was in hiding yesterday. He was allowed to leave prison on Wednesday after

DNA tests cleared him of the murder.

His lawyer in St Malo, René Blanchard, criticised what he described as "British and official pressure" to find a suspect rapidly after the girl was found dead on July 18.

Mr Blanchard said: "There was enormous pressure from the British for the party to be allowed to return home quickly. There was also official pressure for a quick solution to the case."

Mr Blanchard said that the gendarmes had made "hasty

judgments" in placing his client under formal investigation and jailing him.

But he praised the investigating magistrate overseeing the gendarmes. "The judge showed exemplary honesty in allowing justice to come first so that my client could be released," said Mr Blanchard.

Mr Padé's release has brought a renewed mood of dejection to Launceston, where classmates of the girl and members of staff on the activity week trip have been receiving counselling.

## Cash crisis drives British team out of food games

**Emily Barr**

AT LEAST Britain made it to Atlanta. Another less publicised team has failed even to make it to the airport. A month before the Culinary Olympics open in Berlin, the official British team has pulled out for lack of funds.

But we might still see a medal or two coming home, for the Scottish culinary squad has stepped into the breach. It will be represent Britain in such events as hors d'oeuvres, five-course menus and pastry desserts.

"We were going anyway," says Scottish team manager Tony Jackson, "but we were only planning to compete in the cold buffet."

A 1996 rule allows Britain only one national team. While Scotland and Wales compete in the side events, only the London-based British (read English) team may take part in the main Hot Kitchen competition.

British team manager Brian Cottarill blames the recent withdrawal of half the £24,000 sponsorship for his team's failure to get off the ground.

Scottish team captain Bruce Sangster said: "Our first choice was to serve beef, but we found we're not allowed to take it to Germany, so we're doing venison."

## Rising cost of Eurofighter adds £1.5bn to UK tax bill

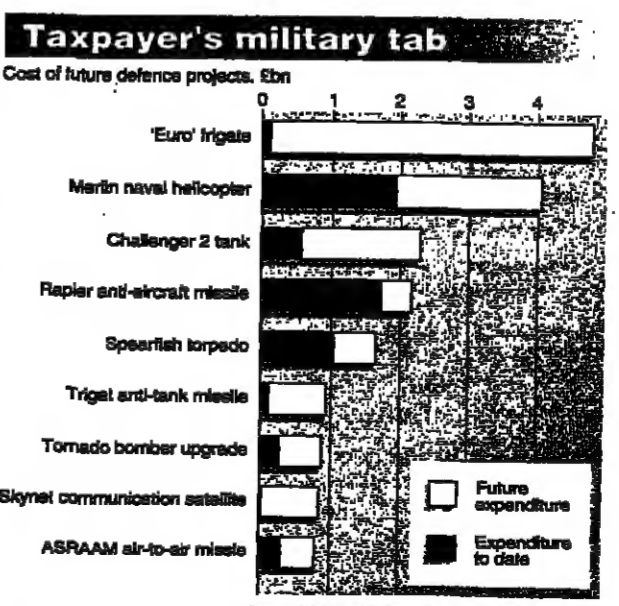
**David Fairhall**  
Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN'S share of the bill for the Eurofighter has risen by a further £1.25 billion in spite of efforts to reorganise the four-nation aircraft project along more economical lines, the government financial watchdog has revealed.

The UK taxpayer's final bill is now expected to be £15.4 billion, and restructuring the programme means the RAF will not get the first of its new fighters until 2001, three years later than it originally hoped.

The new forecasts appear in a National Audit Office review of 25 major defence projects, with a combined cost of £32 billion. Excluding the two exceptionally large programmes — Eurofighter and the £11.8 billion Trident nuclear deterrent — the NAO has uncovered net increases by the end of last year totalling £695 million.

"Unforeseen technical difficulties" account for 40 per cent of the total slippage. But the Ministry of Defence's budgetary restraints have also played a part (22 per cent) plus problems of collaborating with other nations (16 per cent). Protracted negotiations with Germany and France over the Cobra battlefield radar, which



detects enemy gun positions, have helped to set it back by more than six years.

The NAO commends the MoD for some improvement in cost forecasting, but the benefits have yet to appear in average costings. Last year's record was badly marred by the Merlin naval helicopter programme, which suffered a second expensive crash of a pre-production aircraft in

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Health chief undertake for the NHS

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PRIX 2

# Health chief 'undertaker for the NHS'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**A** SENIOR health authority official has delivered an astonishing denunciation of the direction of government health policy, likening his job to that of an undertaker for the NHS.

Dr Stephen Farrow, director of public health for Barnet health authority in north London, has used his annual report to decry the rationing of health care, the two-tier system created by GP fund-holding and the "substantial disaster" of the health care market system.

Arguing that health authority managers are inhabiting an Alice in Wonderland world, Dr Farrow writes: "We have moved in one year from mad cow disease to the mad hatter's tea party."

Public health directors have often voiced concern about aspects of the Government's health changes, but never in terms as trenchant as this.

Dr Farrow says in his 94-page report that it is part of his responsibility to observe and comment. The NHS, he states, is a "depressing sight".

Ministers will be angered that he is insisting overt rationing of health care is taking place and that debate about the relative effective-

ness of treatments is a "comfortable diversion" from the real question.

"We are at a point where we must introduce substantial restrictions on the health care to which people once believed they were entitled," Dr Farrow writes.

"We are talking about services older people will not get when they leave hospital and others will have to pay for."

Describing the NHS market changes as a substantial disaster overall, the doctor says they have been a success only for fundholders who have done much to improve the care of their patients. "The downside has been the two-tier system."

The billing and contracting involved in the market system has meant "a paper-chase of the highest order" for health authorities and health care trusts.

He says public health doctors have been trained in preventive medicine, clinical effectiveness and identification of population needs.

"What the training did not do was to prepare doctors to become the undertakers of the NHS — the role we are required to carry out as more and more areas of the NHS are dismantled."

"We are not only executive directors, but executors of an estate which is being finalised for probate."



Duncan Lawson, who lived with his parents while at university. 'I like my home comforts' PHOTOGRAPH DON MUPPHEE

## Council faces test case over bill for elderly in care homes

David Brindle

**A** LOCAL authority is ready to trigger a test case on the funding of long-term care of elderly people because it says it can no longer afford to meet its legal obligations.

Sefton council on Merseyside yesterday admitted it was failing to step in, as required by law, to pay the fees of 47 care home residents whose assets have fallen below £10,000 — the threshold below which a local authority takes over funding under the community care system.

The charity Help the Aged has given the council 14 days to justify its action or face court proceedings.

The Commons health select committee said on Wednesday there was no crisis in the funding of long-term care, but admitted there was a "wide-

spread perception" that the funding system was unfair.

Under the three-year-old community care system, people with assets of more than £16,000 meet their own costs. If they have assets of between £10,000 and £16,000 the local authority must contribute to the costs. Below £10,000 the authority must meet them all.

A spokesman for the authority said it was paying for 1,071 people in care homes from an annual care budget of about £13 million.

It had asked the Government to review its funding allocation, with no success. There was no money to help the 47 residents in Sefton.

Tessa Harding, head of planning development for Help the Aged, said the charity sympathised with the council's plight, but the 47 had clear rights in law.

# Commuting to campus 'worth it for mother's cooking'

### New graduate explains why he decided against life in a university residence hall

James Meikle

**D**UNCAN Lawson, aged 22, spent four years keeping home comforts as he travelled in each day to Strathclyde university in Glasgow from Airdrie, 16 miles away.

Finance, food and the fact that friends were doing the same all played their part in his decision not to taste the life of university halls.

The earnings of his father, a quantity surveyor, and mother, a teacher, meant he would get little state grant even if he lived on campus.

"I like my home comforts, my mother to do the cooking, and it is an easier life to have the washing done. It helped that my mother and father left the house between 7.30 and 8.30. I got chucked out of bed, and I think I got up

more quickly than if I lived away."

His parents had supported him — to the tune of £1,000 a year in train fares and latterly petrol for his A-registered Vauxhall Nova and for his course books.

Weekend work at a cash and carry and a student loan in his final year helped to finance social activities, but he rarely stayed late on campus.

He was awarded a degree in mechanical engineering this summer, but he said he did not enjoy university.

His elder brother dropped out of another university in Glasgow and now worked in Airdrie, while his younger brother went to yet another university in the city and still lived at home.

"I don't think my parents minded," said Duncan. "They accept it — most students go to university in Glasgow. Some day they might get rid of us."

"A lot of people get grants who shouldn't get them. They buy a hi-fi or something with the lump

# Half of new students stay close to home

James Meikle

**T**HERE'S no place like home for a growing number of students as shortage of money, family commitments and the expansion of universities into most major towns and cities change the face of higher education.

Nearly half the applicants accepted for courses last year chose to study within their home region, according to figures published yesterday.

Younger and better-off students still tend to live away for college, but rising numbers of older students and applicants from ethnic minorities are helping increase the stay-at-home trend, particularly in Greater London where 55 per cent of all students come from within the capital. Women are also more likely to study near home.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service reported yesterday that 46 per cent of people accepted for full-time higher education last autumn stayed close to home, compared with 42 per cent in 1994.

The trend, evident since the late 1980s, may accelerate further thanks to the growing number of deals between universities and local schools offering higher education on the doorstep to suitably qualified teenagers.

Means-tested grants are being steadily cut and replaced by repayable loans, making finance a growing consideration in choosing university courses. From next term the loans available

will be nearly as much as the grants, which are £2,105 in London, £1,710 elsewhere and £1,400 for students living at home. Separate figures on the known term-time accommodation of all undergraduates, collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, suggest 40 per cent live at their own home or their parents'.

Even among under-21s, who make up three-quarters of all higher education newcomers, nearly four out of 10 are studying close to home. The figure rises steeply for those over 25.

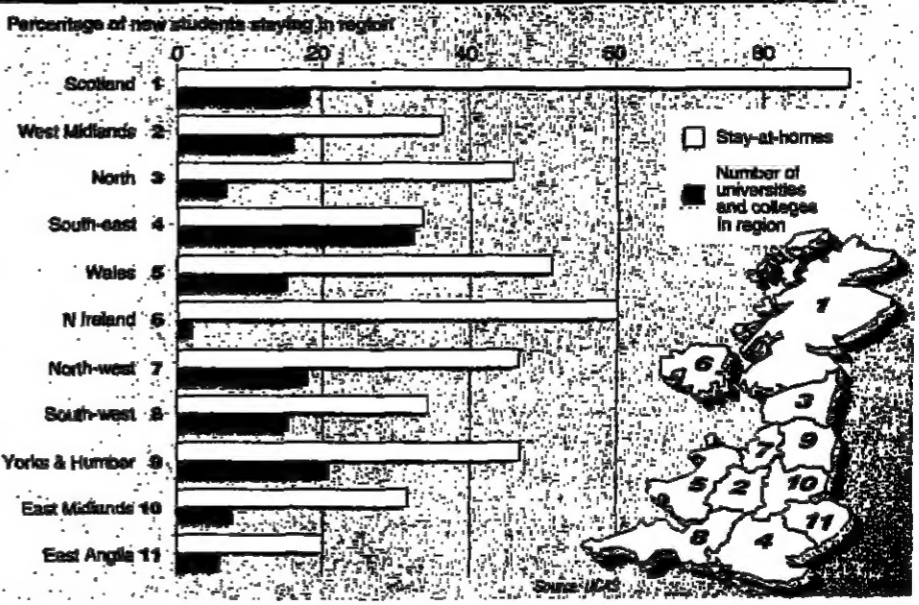
Nine out of 10 Scots stay in their homeland where there are different school examinations and longer degree courses. Three-fifths of Northern Ireland newcomers to higher education stay in the province, and half the students in Wales.

Tony Higgins, Ucas chairman, said: "Perhaps it is as character-building to be living with parents between 19 and 22 as it is to go away. It depends on your relations with your parents I suppose."

It also emerged yesterday that universities are taking legal advice as to whether they would be changing their contracts with potential students if they decided to charge top-up tuition fees for next year halfway through the applications and admissions process.

Results published by Scottish exam chiefs yesterday showed a continuing increase in the Higners pass rate to 89.5 per cent, up from 87.3 per cent in 1990 and 86.1 per cent in 1980. There was a 15.2 per cent pass rate at A grade.

## Home comforts



sum. Maybe it would be better if they got a grant every couple of weeks instead."

Yet he admired some people who went to university a long way from home.

"I don't think I could do it. My main worry would be I didn't like it. I would miss my friends and I would want to go back, but that would mean dropping out."

Now he was considering a career away from home, perhaps with oil companies in Aberdeen, on petroleum platforms or in the police force.

## Labour pledge on party donors

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

**L**ABOUR yesterday pledged to introduce laws to force political parties to declare all donations over £5,000 as part of a crackdown on political funding.

Shadow foreign secretary Robin Cook said Labour would disclose its donations above this level at its party conference this autumn, and challenged the Conservative Party to do the same.

Launching the party's detailed plans on political funding, he claimed the summer weather had "brought out the stench of political scandal" from the Tory party's coffers.

"We have learned that by slipping the Tory party a hundred grand a businessman can get an intimate dinner with the Prime Minister," he said. "We have also discovered that some of the companies which stand to make

most out of the sale of Britain's railways are the very companies who give most to the Tory party."

Mr Cook said that under the other reforms in the legislative package Labour would make it illegal for any political party to accept donations from "foreign sources". In addition, no company would be allowed to make a political donation without first balloting shareholders to set up a political fund.

Companies would also have to give shareholders the right to opt out of their share of a political fund. The party recommends that all political parties in the UK should accept these guidelines, pending the implementation of a statutory framework.

But the Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, claimed Labour's proposals were part of its two-pronged campaign to "try and get taxpayers to fund political parties, and to enable Labour councils to exact vindictive revenge on Tory donors".

The Liberal Democrats welcomed the "overdue" proposals.

"A declaration of donations over £5,000 at this year's Labour Party conference would be one publicity stunt we would welcome," a spokeswoman said. "They have not, however, enlightened us on bankrolling by the unions, nor have they addressed the issue of hidden funding, such as the special edition of the Daily Mirror during the Littleborough & Saddleworth by-election."

Following an article in the Guardian on Wednesday the Royal Bank of Scotland has asked us to make it clear that it is not, and has never been, a Conservative Party donor.



Robin Cook: challenge to Tories on party donations

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**Some Like It Hot!**

# The Yeltsin trail of broken promises

James Meek in Moscow

**T**HE most risky campaign promise Boris Yeltsin made never spoken out loud. It was all in the twist of his big body as he jived on stage at those southern Russian rock concerts on the election trail in May.

"Read my lips," he was saying, "I'm fighting 'it'."

It was a broken promise for which his age and health, rather than the sickness of the body politic he heads, was responsible. But when the exhausted and ailing president takes the oath of office in the Kremlin today the live television audience will have plenty of other broken promises to remember.

As the guests file into the bleak, gargantuan Soviet-era Kremlin Palace for the short

inauguration ceremony, they will be conscious that the greatest stain on Mr Yeltsin's first presidency, the decision to intervene in Chechnia and the subsequent death of tens of thousands of people, has not been atoned for.

The third battle for the Chechen capital Grozny was continuing with unabated ferocity last night, and there were fresh reports of fighting from all over the region. Scores of soldiers, rebels and civilians have died.

Mr Yeltsin's theatrical peace-treaty signing ceremony with the separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev in the Kremlin, and his lightning visit to Chechnia, where he told Russian troops that the war was over and they had won, have turned out to be bogus.

As the guests file into the Kremlin Palace for the short

mittee for Soldiers' Mothers, was the president's clear undertaking in May that Russian conscripts would no longer be forced to serve in Chechnia.

"They're sending conscripts there, just the same as they did before. Nothing has changed. There's been no withdrawal of troops," she said. "Nothing has been really withdrawn. They just move one regiment out and put another one in."

Promises to spend billions of pounds rebuilding the ruined city of Grozny are also in question.

Presidential and governmental decrees on Chechen reconstruction are on a list of 56 high-cost pledges, many linked to the presidential election campaign, up for acting by a team established to try to keep the budget deficit within limits agreed with the IMF.

## Hot session for Chernomyrdin

**V**IKTOR Chernomyrdin faces a grilling on the economy and Chechnia and a "heated but constructive debate" when parliament meets tomorrow to approve his reappointment as prime minister. However, he is likely to get the 226 votes he needs, the Communist Speaker of the State Duma, Gennady Seleznyov, said yesterday.

The Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, said his followers would need a promise of new government policies. — AP.

the musicians who rocked for Yeltsin, the hugely popular singer Alla Pugacheva, was promised \$3 million in May for a Moscow cultural centre she would run. This, too, is under the blade.

The hollowness of Mr Yeltsin's campaign promises to make good unpaid wages is clear from the growing unrest in the coal industry.

The economics minister, Yevgeny Yasin, admitted this

week that the government did not yet have the money to fulfill the president's promises.

"All instructions of the president will be fulfilled. The major issue concerns the term, and when it will be possible to find these assets," he said.

But it is Mr Yeltsin's fragile health rather than his hollow promises that really threaten his hold on power.

Few who voted for him believed his coruptionpledges of peace and roubles by the cubic metre.

"Nobody expected he would pay. Everybody understood they were just election promises. The same with Chechnia. Politics everywhere is a cynical business," said Sergei Markov, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Moscow.

Even Mrs Melnikova agreed. "We knew in our

hearts, we knew from the start that it was rubbish. It was obviously pre-election propaganda."

"Sometimes some mum comes along and says 'Och, I believed him and he deceived me'. And I say 'What are you, a 14-year-old schoolgirl, that you can be fooled so easily?'"

Andrei Mironov, a former political prisoner and one of the organisers of an anti-war demonstration in Moscow last night, pointed out that Mr Yeltsin was not the only one who had broken election pledges. His one-time presidential challenger General Lebed had also promised to end the Chechen war.

Many voters had equally low expectations of what the communist-nationalist movement led by Gennady Zyuganov might be able to achieve, so they voted for the devil they knew in the hope

that they, or their children, might carve out a comfortable place in Yeltsinland.

Pavel Voshchev, political commentator for Komsonolskaya Pravda newspaper, said the property-owning class which Mr Yeltsin and those around him had struggled to create was now real, but it wanted to own more.

"The second Russian president has not yet taken office, but the outlines of the Russia the victors intend to build are already becoming visible — a military-bureaucratic state with a criminal market economy."

"Neither the real leftwing opposition nor the more mythical rightwing can prevent its creation... Russia has entered a phase of doubtful political deeds, the aim of which is to complete the division of property, once and for all."

## India dashes new hopes for test ban

David Fairhall

**I**NDIA formally warned the world's nuclear establishment yesterday that it may still block the proposed test ban treaty unless New Delhi is left free to take its own decisions on testing and the nuclear powers commit themselves to a timetable for disarmament.

An Indian veto would wreck years of tortuous diplomatic negotiation just as the other remaining obstacle to a comprehensive test ban — China's objection to international inspections — seemed this week to have been removed.

Before yesterday's warning, the United States ambassador to the United Nations disarmament conference in Geneva, Stephen Ledogar, forecast that a draft treaty embodying a compromise brokered between Washington and Beijing would be ready by next Thursday.

But the Indian delegate, Arundhati Ghose, reaffirmed her government's objections, which are reinforced by domestic opposition demands that India should test and build its own nuclear missile warheads.

Ms Ghose insisted the text be amended so as not to require her government's ratification before the treaty comes into force — since this would infringe its sovereign right to decide on the issue. The present text requires all parties to the negotiations with nuclear facilities — the five declared nuclear weapons states and the three "threshold" states of Israel, India and Pakistan — to sign and ratify the treaty before it comes into effect.

She said: "If, however, the present text is sought to be

retained, I am instructed to inform the conference that India would be reluctantly obliged to oppose such effort. This text... does not meet India's basic concerns."

Other diplomats noted that the Indian representative did not use the word "block" or "veto", raising the possibility that she will simply abstain next week, leaving the draft treaty to proceed to the UN General Assembly in September.

The only other way of proceeding — considered a poor second best — would be for some other international group to sponsor the treaty at the UN, without the collective endorsement of the 61-country Conference on Disarmament.

Pakistan — also believed to be capable of rapidly developing nuclear weapons if it does not already possess them — says it will not sign the treaty unless India does so.

Apparently responding to opposition demands earlier this week for a stronger stand, a foreign ministry spokesman added yesterday that a treaty would also have to meet Pakistan's chief security concerns — on nuclear proliferation, India's suspected nuclear missile programme, and the violent dispute over Kashmir.

China, meanwhile, is believed to have agreed with the US that on-site inspections to verify the treaty should be allowed if 30 countries de-pledged nuclear facilities — the five declared nuclear weapons states and the three "threshold" states of Israel, India and Pakistan — to sign and ratify the treaty before it comes into effect.

She said: "If, however, the present text is sought to be



Going bananas... Eager Parisians reach out during a fruit giveaway by French farmers yesterday. It was soon called off when thousands of hopefuls overran the distribution site. The handouts had been planned as a protest against falling wholesale prices blamed on the growing reliance of shoppers on discount supermarkets. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL ELLER

## Where the disappeared are ever present

**ISLAM ON PROBATION:** In the last of three articles on Turkey, John Hooper in Istanbul assesses whether the Islamist-led government can improve human rights

**L**ALE MANSUR emerged from the dispersing crowd looking as serene as a woman in a sari. A doctor at the forensic institute in Istanbul invited them to look through the photographic records of unidentified corpses brought in. They identified the missing man and were told his tortured and murdered body had been found in a forest on the Asian side of Bosphorus.

"I felt very sad and angry," says Nadire Mater, one of the organisers of the protests. "A friend called me, and said we should do something."

She says the worst thing about disappearances is that they also lead to the psychological torture of the relatives. "Ojak's father once told me he feels guilty because he at least knows where his son's body is."

Since June, Turkey has been ruled for the first time by a coalition dominated by Islamists. The rise to power of Necmettin Erbakan's Refah (Welfare) party is viewed with dismay by many secular Turks. But, other things being equal, it would seem to hold out hope of an improvement in the country's ghastly human rights record.

In opposition, the Islamists showed concern for human rights. They have themselves been on the receiving end of officially sponsored repression: 26 cases of alleged torture recorded by the IHD in its report were passed on to it by the pro-Islamist human rights organisation, Mesthunder.

However, the president of Turkey's Human Rights Foundation, Yavuz Onen, says other things are not equal. "Maybe Refah does have a genuine humanitarian commitment," he says. "Maybe the Islamists would like to try to solve the Kurdish problem in a different way. Maybe

they are against torture and disappearances. But they don't have the power to put their ideas into practice."

"They are the government, but they do not enjoy the real power of the state, because this is a system based on military force."

After the last coup in 1980, the constitution was amended to give a key role to the National Security Council, a joint government-military body chaired by the president.

"That is the real government," says Mr Onen. "In 20 years, parliament has never rejected a single demand made by the council of the government."

Yet events surrounding the end of last month of the hunger strike in which 13 detainees starved to death would seem to suggest the Islamists are not entirely at the mercy of the men in uniform.

A meeting of the National Security Council was held two days before the strike ended. Independent sources close to the negotiations say the armed forces took an unyielding line. They demanded an assault on the prisons to enable the strikers to be force-fed and ordered hospitals to prepare for casualties.

In the event, the protest ended peacefully and the government made concessions. Did it defy the generals, or did the Islamists have enough influence and credibility to dissuade them from their course? The answer is important in the light of another question.

If the Islamists won enough votes to govern alone and set about imposing their ideas more vigorously than at present, would the army, which has always been seen as a guarantor of the country's secular tradition, step in?

A surprising number of Turks have their doubts. The 1980 coup traumatised society in a way that no previous intervention had. It cost the officer corps popularity and

promote the Islamists as an antidote to communism." The rise of Refah since then has coincided with the decimation of the Turkish left: protest votes once cast for communists, socialists and social democrats have gone to the Welfare party.

The army and the Islamists can also find common ground on the biggest single challenge facing Turkey — the Kurdish insurrection. As the Kurds, and particularly the PKK, move increasingly towards ethnic nationalism, they have encouraged their opponents to lay greater stress on what the country's other inhabitants have in common with them.

"The army has been using Islam as a force against the Kurds, as a way of forcing national integration," says Prof Kalaycioglu. A comparable approach was taken only this week by the new Islamist prime minister, Mr Erbakan, when he launched a tentative peace initiative in the spirit of "Muslim brotherhood."

Every modern army's top priority is the territorial integrity of the nation state. While Refah may be able to create leeway for itself with the army by showing it can act moderately and sensibly, it may be able to create even more by proving something the army's commanders seem already to suspect: that Turkey's religion has a more important role to play than its secular heritage in tackling a crisis that threatens the country's very survival.

## Denmark's 'hell of a socialist' hippie veteran dies on bike trip

AP in Copenhagen

**T**HE veteran hippie Thor-kild Weiss Madsen, whose long greying beard and stooped walk made him one of the best-known characters in the squatter community of Christiansia, has died aged 54, reports said yesterday.

He was said to have died on a bicycle trip in Sweden, but the cause of death was not known.

Mr Weiss Madsen was regularly on the front line of demonstrations, mocking lawmakers and capitalists.

He once described himself as "a hell of a socialist". From 1978 to 1981, he was a member of Copenhagen's city council.

Christiansia is a sprawling former military barracks occupied since 1971 by hippies and anarchists.

Mr Weiss Madsen styled himself as a provocative crusader, and once said: "I hate all that smells of capitalism and oppression."

But he had a hard time provoking the tolerant and easy-going Danes into fighting back. In 1992 he was detained when trying to enter the parliament building wearing a mask of the prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, but he was not prosecuted.

## Greece hatches tax haven plan

Helena Smith in Athens

**G**REECE has come up with a new scheme for keeping a host of far-flung Aegean islands under the wing of Athens rather than Ankara. It plans to turn them into tax havens.

Foreign tourists may flock to Aegean islands but the deputy finance minister, George Anagnostis, conceded yesterday, Greeks have been flocking off them.

"It's imperative that we keep people living on the islands," said Mr Anagnostis, who will table a bill outlining the scheme in parliament today.

"In the last 10 years the population on these islands has dropped by 50 per cent simply because there is no incentive to stay."

Greece is attached to its islands: only intervention by President Clinton prevented a military conflict with Turkey over an uninhabited rock near the Turkish coast earlier this year.

Under Athens' current scheme, a list of 46 islands with populations of less than 3,000 has been drawn up. These islanders would pay no income tax, regardless of nationality.

Last summer Greek consulates around the world were bombarded with inquiries from foreigners after the defence ministry unveiled a plan to house people rent-free on a cluster of nine islands close to the coast of Turkey.

The scheme was quietly



shelved in the face of Turkish sensitivities, but Athens is now talking about using European Union funds to relocate businesses to strategic outposts.

"In the summer these islands have a bit of life but in the winter their population dwindles to just a few families," said Christodoulos Fallourides, an adviser to the defence minister.

Greece has more than 2,000 islands studding the Mediterranean, Ionian and Aegean seas, but only 200 are inhabited.

Greek nerves have been newly jangled by a leading Turkish newspaper saying that a Turkish army report describes 100 islands within six miles of Turkey's coast as "belonging by law to Turkey, the successor of the Ottoman Empire". Greece's ruling Socialists yesterday demanded an immediate retraction.

**The boys on their boards seem frozen, becalmed; a kid leaning his arm against a tree constitutes some sort of event. Without the verbal energy of Clark's movie, only inertia remains.**

Larry Clark

Return page 4

مكتبة الامير







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Aliens attack the White House in Independence Day. Baldwin is an alien, in an early war of the worlds illustration.

Eric form is an antiquarian bookeller and a major HQ. Website: www.ericform.co.uk. Independence Day opens in the UK today.

Be warned, it may make you feel a little feverish. In 1917, by a Venezuelan zoologist called Julius Wagner von Jauregg, that it is possible to treat tertiary syphilis - which is resistant to chemotherapy - by infecting patients with a benign form of malaria (though being a comparative term; the resulting fever raises the body temperature to a point where the spirochete, the corkscrew-shaped micro-organism that causes syphilis, cannot survive).

While other big killers have taken central symbolic roles in the history of evolutionary biology: Alfred Russel Wallace, the British naturalist who was the co-discoverer with Darwin of the theory of organic evolution by natural selection, made his crucial theoretical leap while in the grip of fever in the East Indies.

Malaria dreams



VERY few weeks, it seems, go by without a headline about malaria. The disease appears on the media horizon, an old scourge making a come-back or a new horror emerging from the tropical forest: Ebola virus in Zaïre, plague in India, cholera in Latin America, tuberculosis everywhere. The latest of these revelations to send shivers down the spine - literally in the case of those who fall victim to it - is malaria.

For most people in the world, of course, malaria never went away. Two million catch it each year and hundreds of thousands of them die. After infantile diarrhoea, it is the biggest killer disease, mauling authorities everywhere. But in the incidence of cases in western countries - 2,000 returning travellers in Britain last year - and the spread of any strains or the malaria parasite, it is triggering a spate of malaria scare stories. Thus it is reported that the most effective prophylactic, artemisinin, has serious psychological side-effects. And just west, rather more speculatively, a Dutch scientist suggested that global warming could turn Europe into a mosquito-friendly zone, triggering indigenous outbreaks in Britain and elsewhere.

It wouldn't be the first time. The symptoms of malaria were first recorded by Hippocrates in the fourth century BC; the three-day intermittent fever he documented gave rise to the English name for malaria, tertian ague, an affliction mentioned in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. "Malaria" itself derives from the Italian, mal'aria, and reflects the theory, prevalent until the 19th century, that the disease was the result of miasmas rising from swamps: Pontine marshes near Rome until they were drained in the 1850s. This and much other curious information is to be found in an excellent book called The Malaria Capers by Robert M. Desowitz (Norton, £7.95), a tropical medicine specialist. When it comes to the non-academic literature, though, there is surprisingly little to be found.

If you've ever had malaria you will know that its alternation of chills and fevers are often accompanied by derangement of the senses, by rage, night-mares and delirious utterances and, if you are very unfortunate, by death. Surely this is the stuff of literature. Death from swamp fever is indeed a motif in the western romance novel.

And in Ghosh's version, the ill becomes a cure for more than syphilis. The world is turned upside down: the researcher is manipulated by his experimental subject; the disease becomes a remedy; and in an appropriately subliminal denouement, the old gods return. With this novel, malaria may be said to have found its place in literature. Be warned, though, it may make you feel a little feverish.

# Arts

Photographer Larry Clark's exhibition Kids inspired his controversial film of the same name. Jonathan Romney surveys a binge of sex and drugs and skateboarding

## Postcards from a teenage wasteland

**P**HOTOGRAPHER Larry Clark made his reputation in the 1970s as a documenter of America's teenage wasteland. However, during his recent drug-fueled binge, he has produced a compelling narrative film, *Kids*, which is a collection of his most striking photographs from the past decade. The film is a portrait of a generation of teenagers who are growing up in a world of drugs, sex, and violence. Clark's photographs are a stark, unflinching record of this world, and his film is a powerful commentary on the state of American youth.

The photographs in *Kids* precede Clark's film of the same name and provide a sort of "back story" to it. Clark's film is a collection of his most striking photographs from the past decade. The film is a portrait of a generation of teenagers who are growing up in a world of drugs, sex, and violence. Clark's photographs are a stark, unflinching record of this world, and his film is a powerful commentary on the state of American youth.



## Beaker people

The Total Package: The Evolution and Secret Meaning of Boxes, Bottles, Cans and Tubes by Thomas Hine 289pp, Little, Brown, £16.99

**P**ackages can be conceived as a deliberate, half-controlled continuation between themselves and their contents. They promise and reality between (if you like, and John Keats did "beauty and truth"). This book includes a discussion of that address to a proto-package, Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn". Though with "greater intensity and higher expectations than a child reading a cereal box at the breakfast table," Keats expresses a similar faith that a container can "tell more than what's merely inside"—and some times it doesn't tell even that.

In the modern age, food shopping in particular, becomes a seamless, sensually frozen into an object. The 36,000 packages that we encounter in the average supermarket, Hine says, have a double burden: both to contain the product and to accelerate its purchase. Sometimes this mechanism is open (those transparent windows on pasta packets), at other times the wrapping is a cunning disguise.

At once exciting and reassuring, packages add value to products. They protect from contamination and spillage, they can offer an economy or a premium look. They standardise distribution and, as a concrete brand vehicle, unity marketing at the point of sale and back in the home. For something that seems supplementary, they turn out to be central.

Most of this book is concerned with capsule-like histories of the triumphs of containment. These are sometimes technical achievements: the liberation of the glass industry from the closed-shop of canning, the crucial invention of the paper bag (or the cardboard box), of refrigeration, of the shopping trolley, of Chlophane, the aerosol, the microwave and the "toppack" (the floppy milk carton). Otherwise these narratives are commercial public branding tales: Quaker, Marlboro, Pears, Colgate, Whigley's gum, Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Heinz ketchup. Epic brands like these are essentially compromised, Hine says, as works of visual art. But some of them — like Andy Warhol's Campbell's soup tins, the Bass ale bottle in Robert Rauschenberg's *Polka Dots on Marlboro*, or most notably, the Pears soap in Sir John Miller's *Bubbles* — have found their way into works of art. The hotdogging tube, meanwhile, was developed from the tubes used to contain artist's paint.

Other sections in Hine's comprehensive and imaginative book deal with different modes of packaging — Jampage, jangling, seal, hot. Others still consider the fine of total packaging systems — which are those that come from water-borne paint to shipping cartons, from carry to supermarket stall.

Byrne, by Anthony Burgess (Vintage, £2.99) is a novel written in a style that is both a parody and a pastiche of the style of the 19th-century novelist. It is a story of a man who is caught in a web of intrigue and deception. The novel is a masterpiece of the genre, and it is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the history of the novel.

Thomas Hine's history and genealogy of packaging is a "signpost of advertising" (could say such matters but Hine does not) — or to Spenser's, he is working in an already established tradition: recently there have been special histories of the pencil and the zip. He lives in an age of the product and on the material of ordinary life is one of the most revealing areas of cultural study. It is almost as if this had appeared as an antidote to the increasing abstraction or exhaustion of class, church and state, war, land tenure, city and country. Others might

know all about the origins of the Splice Girls. Yes, a small ad did feature in it. No, he couldn't say any more. Virginia had bought this advance over a year ago, for "a significant item". Yes.

At the photographer's gallery, London WC2 (44-17-48) 1772.

### Artyfacts

WANANBE Friends with chart-topping Spice Girls? Don't talk about 'Take That'. Still less Bananarama. These women are serious musicians, artists and feminist business people. Not a formula band put together with ruthless cynicism like assembling accessories for Rock Chick. Bananarama's new album 'The Hunter' is a collection of their original songs, and it's a testament to their enduring talent.



their art; or the clearly spurious stage they answer an ad in together by a Swedish manager until they match the design specifications. (An employee of their record company, Virgin, has gone so far as to conduct that an ad was "the catalyst" for their meeting.) Nevertheless, inviting a phone call from anyone seriously interested in the fine arts is a good idea. It was Bob Heffer, former head of the gallery, who suggested that they should have a show. They had a packed house with a few from the art world. Heffer's idea hadn't been the last. He did

know all about the origins of the Splice Girls. Yes, a small ad did feature in it. No, he couldn't say any more. Virginia had bought this advance over a year ago, for "a significant item". Yes.

was flagged to the Getty Museum after a public appeal to keep them in this country. The export ban was dropped on, then a further appeal raised enough to keep them. Shared between the USA and Edinburgh, with the help of a Jewish contribution from John Paul Getty II — until Mr. Clifford almost blew it with an ill-timed suggestion that JPII didn't get on with the artist. And was prepared to pay handsomely to keep the naked ladies out of his museum. After an apology even more handsome than the donation, the grant expired and so did the ladies. Now Mr. Clifford

WAGANAMA, noodle bars by appointment to London's "point-and-click" generation, have a new item on the menu: the two restaurants will soon be featuring extracts of 'Baby Life's surrealistic prose. 'After Wagmanama But Mostly Before'. From his very own 'Baby Life' novel 'Adventures in Capitalism' (Secker and Warburg, £12.99).

CLARE NAYLOR, formerly a secretary at the said Secker, has just had a chunk of romance fiction bought by Hodder. In a two-book deal worth £75,000, Naylor has now been whisked off to Hollywood to collaborate on a script with Martin Scorsese and Tom Cruise. Her boss at Secker received her resignation

THE movie industry's rousing comeback is being led by John Cheever in a play titled 'The Day After Tomorrow'. It's a story of a man who is caught in a web of intrigue and deception. The play is a masterpiece of the genre, and it is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the history of the play.

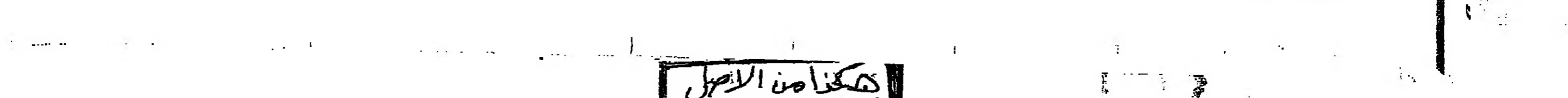
The Printer's Devil: A Magazine of New Writing, Issue 11 (£2.99), 12a Western Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3AE. Tel: 01273 720894

**The Lawyer**  
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BOOKS



Vladimir's toys

The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov 663pp, Weidenfeld, £25 James Wood

Vladimir Nabokov thought fully, did not bounce into genius fully-formed; he spent some fairly clumsy time playing with toys, and this volume provides the evidence.

Nabokov wrote short stories from the mid-1920s until the late 1930s — 66 are gathered here. Most of these were written in Russia under the pen-name Vladimir Shirin, and composed in Berlin and the south of France, before Nabokov's flight to America in 1940. His best-known stories — best-known because of their appearance in a lovely book called Nabokov's Dozen (1939) — were written in English. In America a new audience and language must have beckoned his talent into fresh sensations, for these later stories are incontestably finer than the earlier ones.

A surprising number of Nabokov's early stories do not rise above the sentimental or comfortingly nostalgic — they are odes for the morning *émigré* animal. Berlin, where the young Nabokov was scraping a living as a writer and teacher, had a large Russian émigré population. Its leading writer, whom Nabokov publicly praised but privately disliked, was Ivan Bunin, a delicately lyrical poet of exile. But to judge from the stories

collected here, Nabokov learned much from Bunin's milder tales. Several of Nabokov's plots are sharply reminiscent of Bunin's, and one of his best, "Spring in Fiala", echoes Bunin's story "Late Hour". In both, a man returns to a dreary Russian town after years away, and is stunned by memories of an old love affair.

Many of the stories that Nabokov wrote in his twenties and thirties have a soft, conventional vagueness that betrays the somewhat dilettantish, *fin-de-siècle* sensibility of this writer (the sensibility that once admonished for exact and unsparring Chekhov for prosaic). The situations these tales establish are hackneyed, implausible or sensational. Several of them make use of the abandoned man, faithless wife motif.

An odour of Somerset Maugham hangs around, in "Wingspread". Kern, a widower on a skilful hunt, falls in love with a mysterious woman. We first learn that Kern is witless because of this novelistic touch: "Kern picked out a ragged copy of the *Isler* from the previous June and for a long time examined the smile of the woman who had, for seven years, been his wife." In "Revenge", a biology professor plans to murder his unfaithful wife: "He realised with utter clarity that he would murder his wife...". "A Slice of Life" closes with a man shooting his unwell wife in a café. Nabokov could never resist melodrama, but in his novels and dramas is either triumphant over or as in *Lolita* and *Invitation to a Beheading*.

He is at his most moving when noticing a chance detail

Earlier collections of Nabokov's pictures had it all — an attack, love-jobs, autobiography. This collection (all shots are very little ideas of what we are looking at, or of what the pictures might be about to tell us

water hall, the 622-million venue which opens with a Halle concert next month. The popble is a Carrara marble sculpture by Yasuda, funded by Manchester City Council and Manchester Airport, with the inevitable support of the Lottery White Marble, says Yasuda, "is like an old dream which becomes true, perhaps like the dream which was the historical vision of the city of Manchester. The abstract form will exactly express the spirit and natural force, the courage and hope of the city." Inspiring stuff, particularly since it was written before the the bomb went off.

PERHAPS the Getty Museum would like a nice pebble as a consolation prize? Several people in Manchester are delighted to arrange deliveries. This is a prize among pebbles, an 18-tonne amble which has just been lowered into place outside the Bridge-

water hall, the 622-million venue which opens with a Halle concert next month. The popble is a Carrara marble sculpture by Yasuda, funded by Manchester City Council and Manchester Airport, with the inevitable support of the Lottery White Marble, says Yasuda, "is like an old dream which becomes true, perhaps like the dream which was the historical vision of the city of Manchester. The abstract form will exactly express the spirit and natural force, the courage and hope of the city." Inspiring stuff, particularly since it was written before the the bomb went off.

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Television David McKie

The men from the ministry

PLATONIANS, said R R S Crossman, are rather like fishermen, with civil servants as the fish swimming below. It will still be there and up to their necks in the mud, but the politicians have gone. You need an even more complicated metaphor for the Ministry of Defence which is run by a duality but by a trinity: politicians, civil servants and the hard-nosed, close-shaven, jutting jawed men from the military.

Top Brass, the first instalment in Richard Bradley's *Defence Of The Realm* (BBC), was full of their candidly marploting the civil servants were sure, considered, and ably assisted by ministers' jokes, and ably assisted by ministers' jokes, and ably assisted by ministers' jokes.

It is a commonplace to link Nabokov's religion of nihilism with his own lost childhood, his Russian past erased in a swirl of ideology. A commonplace because he himself was so often of child hood. But Nabokov is most moving not just when his writing is least ing, preserving detail, but when... as Richard Barry has suggested, the noticing of a chance detail makes a stand against the cruelty of blindness, when noticing exact details who do not notice. "First Love" offers an exquisite example.

Nabokov is describing his family party that travelled abroad in 1908. He offers this parenthetical: "The old one of our party, my father's valet, Oleg (who, by a decade later, the pedantic Bolshheviks were to shoot, because he appropriated them over to the nation)." What is powerful here is the highly ornamented understatement. Oleg was shot because, once the Nabokov family fled, he kept the boys' bicycles for himself. Nabokov enjoys the irony of that pronoun (the kind of verb that the Bolshheviks might use). But the genius of the sentence lies in the adjective "pedantic". Here Nabokov uses his aristocratic diction to flick off the Bolshheviks as if they were nothing more than clumsy servants — overzealous, pedantic. This is moving, for we learn, three words later, where their "pedantry" ended up. And this word gains extra strength from our sense that it is Nabokov himself who is being pedantic here. He is being pedantic for insisting on using the word "pedantic"; his very precision of language is deliciously pedantic. The pedantry of noticing, the esthetics of observation, the politesse of preservation — here, in one of Nabokov's finest stories, buried in one of his finest sentences, is the justification of his humane politesse, and a key to his entire art.

James Wood is a senior editor at the New Republic magazine in Washington.

The Book of the Week

ROGUES GALLERY

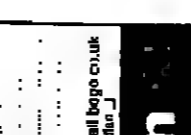
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Richard E. Grant's career peaked after playing an unemployed actor in *William & I*. His film diaries are a witty, idiosyncratic, beguiling account of life after *William & I*. O'Toole gives an affectionate, beguiling and above all funny account of student life at RADA: the party, parties, pubs, money-making schemes, and of course, the work.

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# Music

## After rescuing British pop music from an all-time low, Suede disappeared, overtaken by the movement they invented. Now they're back — as Brett Anderson tells Caroline Sullivan

# Shoo, Suede blues!

**B**RETT'S got to do some promotion in Paris on Tuesday, so how about if you went to Paris and met Brett on the train back to London, and you can talk to him there," said Suede's impassioned publicist. "Would that be all-right?"

Would it be all right? Plenty of boys would get the vapours at this very idea of sitting next to Suede singer Brett Anderson on the Eurostar for three hours. And what a ride it promises to be — northern France at sunrise, an elegant train, dimly lit cars, all embraced by Anderson, whose ravaged young but nonetheless evoked the young David Bowie. Best of all, he'd be likely next to him for the whole journey with no escape, unless he felt like getting out at Ashford. It's a long way, but someone's got to do it.

Except, inevitably, it didn't happen. The train left Gate 6A North with no trace of Anderson. It's not as if he would have been hard to spot, looking "like Patsy Kensit's dissolute berberre brother." The publicist's last words came back: "He's much more reliable these days — you used to have to hunt him down in Paris in whatever bar, and planes would be cancelled at the last minute." Well, he'd obviously had a relapse.

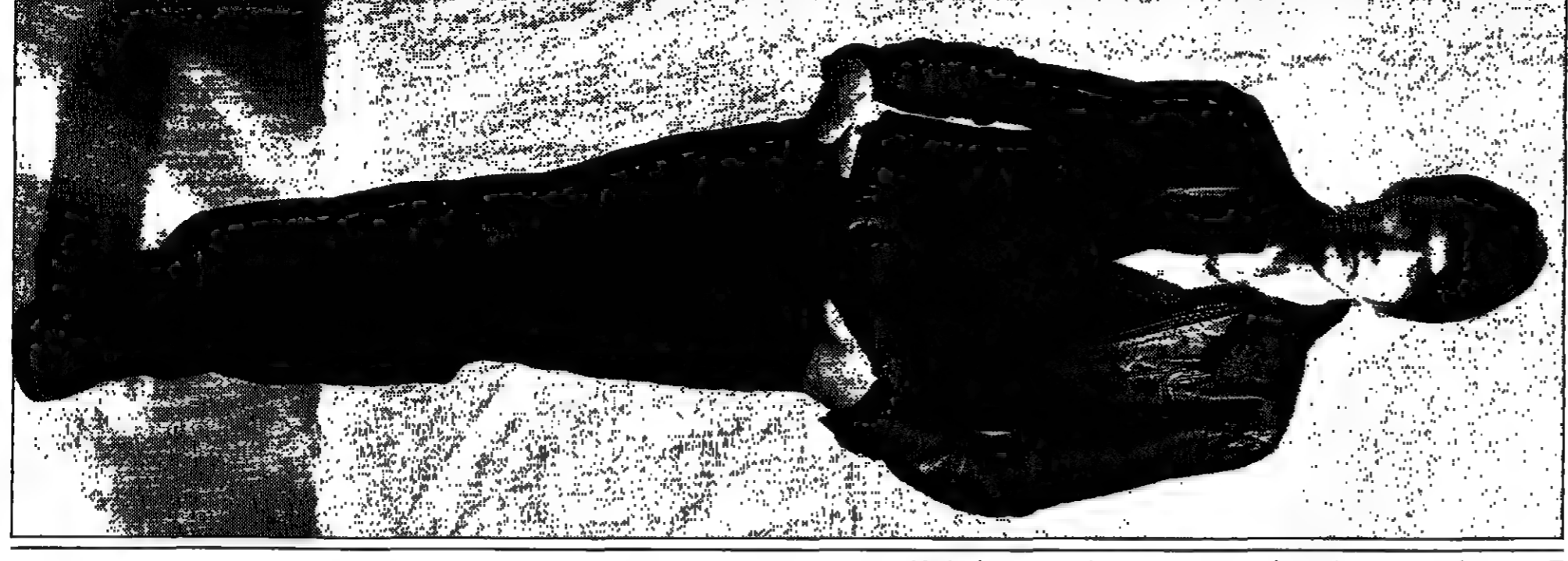
At which point the conductor interjected with a hic: "Brett has vegetatively been reloaded to London early due to the house being vandalised with threatening anti-Suede graffiti. Hope you had a nice day."

Eighteen hours later, at the Top Of The Pops studio in Esher, where Suede were playing their new single, "Treat" (originally known as Pisspot), Saul Gervais of Nide Records elaborated. "These two foreign so-called fans wanted him to let them into his flat, and he wouldn't, so the next day they painted things like Brett must die all over his windows and door and sprayed his address all over Ladbroke Grove." That Anderson exclaims such passion is nothing new. Suede's camp glamour is a beacon for extremists of all persuasions, and the drug-taking, wild-quoting Anderson is ground zero.

Now that the group have ended an 18-month break, during which they neither released records nor gave interviews, Anderson will again be the subject of fanatical attention. It's just the way it is — Oasis, who preside over the Britpop movement Suede invented, have fans, but Anderson has fanatics.

They seem to have become even more obsessive since guitarist Bernard Butler left on highly acrimonious terms after the release of the last album, 1994's *Dog Man Star*. One of the publisher's great-down characters, Butler/Anderson divorced in circumstances that both still refuse to discuss. Butler has still released a much-praised LP with soloist David McNamont.

"Nothing he's done has set me on



**I think I can say without being a deluded idiot that Britpop was started by us, and now I don't want anything to do with it?**

Anderson (in a suit and tie, holding a cigarette)

fire, but I'm past the stages of wanting to critique him. That whole changes in our history is so foggy to my head that it's like remembering childhood," says Brett, thus dismissing at a stroke the perceptive but revived British music by re-introducing the three-volume pop song.

He's much chatter on the subject of Butler's replacement, Dorset teenager Richard Oakes. Little Dick, co-wrote most of the next album, *Coming Up* (out in September), and "much more up" than the richly embroidered *Dog Man*, and Anderson claims the child is Butler's equal. As the latter is widely considered to be the best English guitarist of his generation, that's a bit hard to swallow. Oakes can't independently play as Treah's gilly power-chords prove, but can he write melodies that stand up to Anderson's paeans to sex, drugs and equal?

"Dicko" is no longer the mopey 17-year-old who joined nearly two years ago, but he's still tender. Over chips in the studio canteen, Eastenders, then retreats behind wings of long black hair. During breaks in the taping, he hangs around with the other new members, keyboardist Neil Canning, Anderson more than compensates, however. When I'm finally ushered into his presence, he's watching a TV monitor showing Robbie Williams rehearsing downstairs. "So talented," Brett says crudely. When Williams returns to his dressing room, next door to Suede's, the two men greet each other (the way not take Williams seriously) but Gabsen does, making several cuts to check the progress of the ex-Oasis Theatrical's single, which came out the same day as "Treat". As it happens, Williams makes it to number two, landing *Treat* in third place.

Anderson is doing well and handling some press days, more Ziggy Stardust, albeit in an increasingly contentious than Patsy Kensit when he last did the same circuit, in early 1996, he was the mess. Patsy, mostly and demeaned, he excommunicated from the band. Anderson says he would not do that. He has a sense of humor about his own past, and does not go through the motions of doing my hair properly and doing all the breathiness, pins, we were in a state of confusion, because a member had just left and we didn't know whether to split up or tour the UK and I decided to tour the UK.

"I haven't had a live for three

### Better than all the rest

Stravinsky single-handedly altered the course of the 20th century's musical history. Andrew Clements applauds the Proms for devoting an entire day to his work

**Music** | 7

In a league of his own, Igor Stravinsky reawakened emancipation of pulse and rhythm 60 years earlier. It was a long journey through an ever-changing musical landscape which took Stravinsky physically through four countries, beginning in pre-revolutionary Russia, and ending in the United States, where he settled at the start of the second world war.

It is of course his early masterpieces, especially the first three ballets for Diaghilev: *The Firebird*, *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring*, that have established Stravinsky's permanent score. But his output was enormous, and these ballet scores from his first decade in his life that remain the most virtuosic.

The 1922 opera *Mavra*, a farewell to his Russian heritage composed in an exile from the revolution in France, is hardly ever heard, but stars staged, many of the major neo-classical scores are part of the universal repertoire. But the dancing melodramatic *Pershephone* of 1894 was an attempt less often than it deserves. And though the Proms include a performance of *The Flood*, Stravinsky's highly compressed version of the biblical Creation, written in 1862 for Diaghilev, the late works have never established themselves.

Even Agon, a ballet masterpiece from 1897, to be ranked at least alongside *Petrushka* and *Apollon*, is only a fixture in the ballet repertoire. Its place ensnared by George Balanchine's wonderful choreography. But pieces like *Treat*, his first completely serial score, the iconoclastic *Movements for piano and orchestra*, and the last major work, *Requiem Canticles*, which harks back over 60 years to the liturgy of the Russian Orthodox church, remain virtually unknown.

Without a grasp on these late pieces especially, the full breadth of Stravinsky's creativity is hard to delineate. Everything he touched he made his own, even Puccini's. The 1920 reworking of Puccini's *Il Trittico* made the whole of his, and everyone else's, production possible, and could have been received by one without the intervention of his turning points, after that epiphany there was no going back. But there were never any going back. Stravinsky's music, always new and challenging, always sought out triumphantly, met them.

Sir Kenneth Coates is at the Royal Albert Hall, Kennington, London SW2, on Saturday 4pm. The Soldier's fare is 5.50pm, The Fairy's Kiss, 8.30pm. Conclude at 10. All-in tickets available. Booking on +44-171-589 8212

mass a strange, ascetic product of the 1940s.

**The Rites of Spring** Apollon Musagete  
London Philharmonic/Hatichy/  
London Symphony/Marekitch  
(Philips Duo 438 350-2) (two CDs)  
The Diaghilev ballet established him as a pioneer of modernism, together with Apollon, a masterpiece of his neoclassical phase.

**Les Noceurs** Mass  
English Bach Festival/Bernstein/  
Czechoslovak Radio Orchestra/  
Suisse Romande/Moissi  
Symphony/Dutch (Decca 436 174-2)  
The Symphonies of Wind Instruments is a masterpiece. The two neoclassical

position, a setting of Edward Lear's *The Owl*. The *Prissy Cat*, was completed in 1906. And he lived and composed through the most tumultuous and rapidly changing period in musical history, often acting as the catalyst for the changes himself.

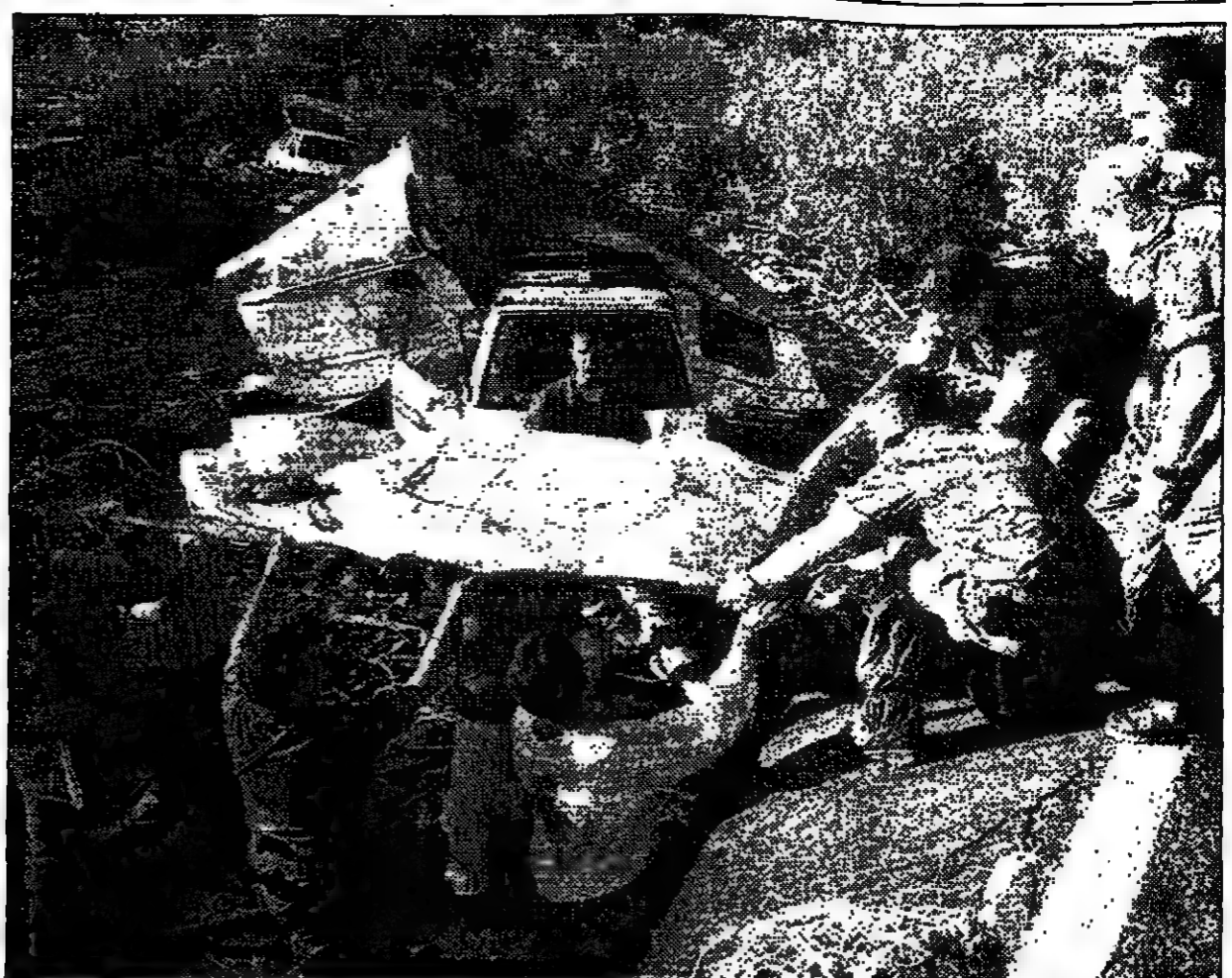
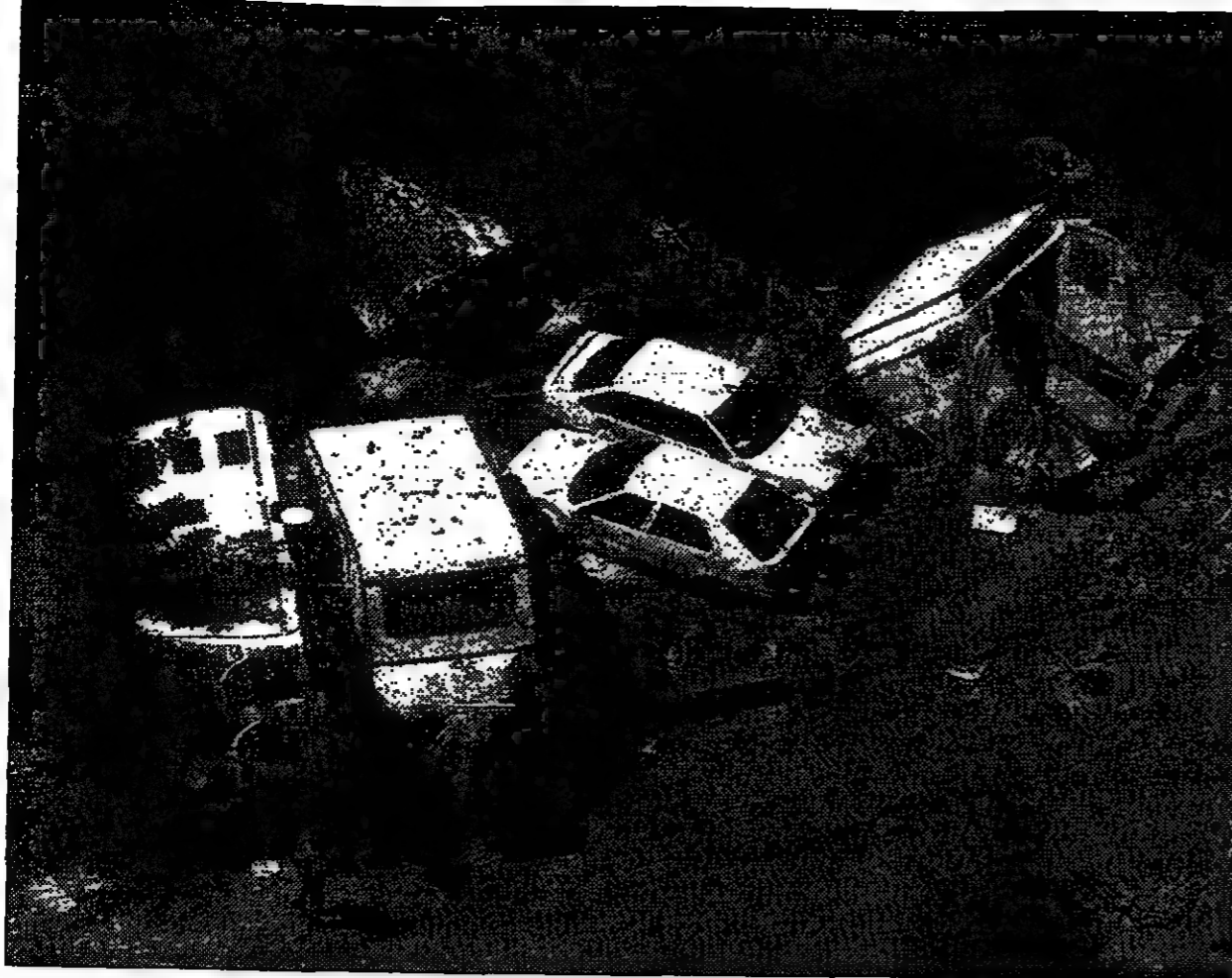
Born in 1882, the year Wagner died, by the time of his own death in 1972, Stravinsky had already begun to forge their own new language, which itself would have been unthinkable without the example of Stravinsky's own

make into a large new world in the first decades of the century — the end of it in a self-contained musical world that was entirely his own creation, refining his own mature version of serial technique which took Anton Webern as a starting point but moved in an entirely different direction from that taken by the young lions of the post-war avant garde.

His earliest published work, the P sharp minor Piano Sonata, was begun in 1903, when he was studying in St. Petersburg with Rimsky-Korsakov; his last completed composition, *The Owl*, was completed in 1970.

There is no one else in our era whose achievement has been so immense and so varied, no one, perhaps in the whole history of music, who has altered his course so drastically in a single work as he did in 1915 with the premiere of *The Rite of Spring*. And there is no major composer whose career underwent so many changes of direction yet who managed to stay so true to himself, never writing a single bar of music that was not impregnated with his distinctive personality. On Sunday, the Proms devote a whole day to his music — three concerti spanning his output — and it's hard to think of anyone who deserves that accolade more thoroughly.

If Stravinsky began his composing career as a paradigm of modernism — one of the joiners, along with Debussy and the Secular and Viennese School, who look



The flood left crushed cars where once there were trees and a tangled mass of bicycles (below) belonging to victims, whose bodies were picked from the debris yesterday by an army of rescue workers

PHOTOGRAPHS (below and right), JAVIER BELVER

# Tears fill the muddy void carved out by the deluge

'They're there, I know it. She was holding on tight, and my little one'

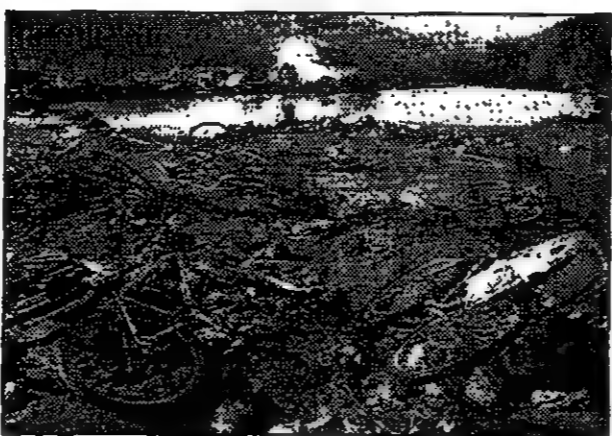
Juan Carlos de la Cal at Virgen de las Nieves campsite

WHAT until yesterday was the Las Nieves campsite is now a desolate place. A bomb site, an earthquake, Apocalypse Now rolled into one. Soldiers, police, ambulances, helicopters taking off and landing continually.

Rivers where once were plains, crushed cars instead of trees, fallen trees in place of caravans. And rocks, thousands of rocks.

The half-light of early morning reveals dozens of silhouettes staggering amid the remnants of the catastrophe. Some look for their cars. Others for the spot where they pitched their tents. Some seek their children. Nobody responds to their calls.

The silhouette of a woman stands out clearly in the mud. She is face down and has something in her arms. She moves. But nobody doubts that she is dead. When they turn the body over, life stirs miraculously. The baby, barely two months old, is alive. Its eyes are shut and it spits mud from its little mouth.



Its mother does not want to let her go. Although her heart has stopped beating, her arms still stoutly defend her child. With tears in their eyes the men separate the living from the dead. Francois, half-crazed, his clothes in tatters and his eyes open unnaturally wide, stops everyone he comes across on the road to show them the crumpled photo of his wife and daughter. He splutters their names in all the languages he knows. Desperately, he clutches the chest of the civil guard trying to calm

him. "No, no, leave me. They're there, I know it. In that tree. She was holding on tight and my little one..." Francois falls silent. He looks on the point of tears, remembering how the water carried away his daughter. He shuts his eyes and lets himself be led away quietly to the car.

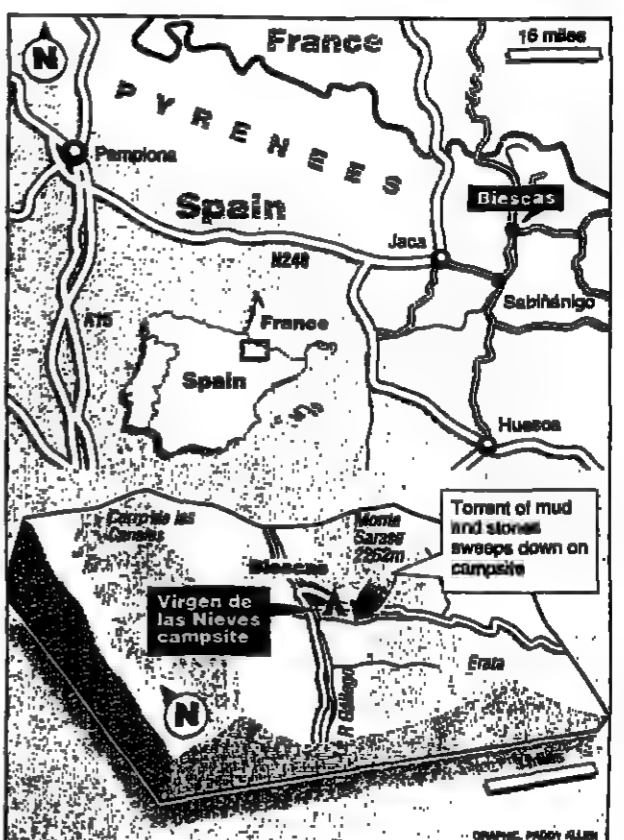
Carolina is the only one who seems mad with happiness. She was lucky. With her hair tangled in her eyes she hugs and kisses her dog which barely has the strength to wag its tail. She refuses to be separated from it. She calls it by its name, laughs hysterically, talks confusedly. Nobody knows anything about her, if she was alone or with others.

A man from Burgos searches among the shattered furniture without a word. He arrived this morning and has checked all the hospitals, hotels and reception centres in the area in a vain search for his three-year-old nephew. He looks fearfully to the bottom of the hillside. Something tells him that he is down there.

As the day progresses, the "harvest" of bodies diminishes. Beside the main road alone they have found about 20. If there are more, they could take days to turn up. News arrives of a body found 10 miles away, floating in the marshes where the Gallego river passes through Sabñanigo.

The search now concentrates on this area. Most of the rescuers fear the worst. If the force of the current has managed to sweep bodies so far away, it is possible that the reservoir is full of them.

Juan Carlos de la Cal is a correspondent for El Mundo.



As the toll of holidaymakers killed on Wednesday when a flash flood smashed through a Spanish campsite rose to 67, correspondents look at the freak accident's aftermath

## Tolls mount in Europe's freak storms

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

A GROWING number of people across Europe are being killed by sudden flash-floods in which heavy rain creates a lethal surge of water, rocks, trees and mud.

Although so-called freak storms — particularly heavy, localised thunderstorms — have always been part of the weather pattern, the destruction they cause has worsened in modern times, mainly because of human reshaping of the landscape.

To gain more land, planners direct rivers into channels too narrow to accommodate flooding, and build houses on flood plains. Where forests and alpine meadows used to soak up the rain and slow down flooding, natural vegetation — includ-

ing on mountains — has been cut down. New roads and tracks provide rapid run-off, and can increase water flows off the land by 300 per cent.

Soil erosion on disturbed mountainsides, particularly during intense, two-day rainstorms like the fatal one 2,800ft up in the Pyrenees, creates a series of dams in streams and ditches.

When one mini-dam bursts, a chain reaction can cause extraordinary devastation within minutes. Thousands of tonnes of mud and rock cascade down mountainsides, crushing cars and houses.

In Italy, southern France and Spain have been particularly prone to such floods in the past two to three years. In north-east Italy yesterday, rescue workers said they evacuated nearly 100 people after a landslide filled dozens of homes with mud and stones. The slide followed tor-

rential rain on Wednesday night near the ski resort of Cortina D'Ampezzo in the Italian Alps.

Eleven people were killed in Tuscany in June, when ferocious storms caused mud-slides, and rivers burst their banks. Bridges and cars were swept aside and houses submerged.

In January, more than five people were killed in the central town of Yebra after a sudden storm.

In January, more than five people were killed in the central town of Yebra after a sudden storm. In November 1994, 32 people were killed in north-east Italy and southern France when storms swept through the

region, causing a series of landslides, and river bridges to be swept away.

The danger also exists in Britain after storms. The village of Polperro in Cornwall is prone to flash-flooding and uses a warning system. If a large amount of water is detected at higher levels in the river, it sets off a siren in the village. Polperro suffered a flash-flood a year-and-a-half ago, when the narrow river channel through the village overflowed.

Although there is no evidence that the recent floods in Europe have anything to do with climatic change, the increasing intensity of rainstorms has been predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which reported in June. It says rain will fall in shorter bursts in much larger volumes, bringing the danger of sudden floods.

### World news in brief

#### EU carpets Washington for anti-trade law

THE European Union lodged a formal protest with the United States yesterday against its anti-terrorism law imposing sanctions on foreign firms investing in Iran and Libya.

"The EU is taking the opportunity to express its unambiguous view that the kind of law and policy taken by the Americans as expressed in the D'Amato Act is completely unacceptable," an official said earlier. The delegation intended to warn that the EU would take appropriate retaliatory action if need be.

The D'Amato law, signed by President Clinton on Monday, has triggered a wave of protests from Washington's trading partners that it violates the right of governments to make their own policy. EU officials have already been given the go-ahead to prepare retaliatory action against it and the Helms-Burton Law, which is aimed at stopping firms trading in Cuba. — Reuter.

#### Turkish Cypriots warn bikers' rally not to cross line

THE self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot government warned yesterday that plans by Greek Cypriot and European motorcyclists to force their way across the United Nations-controlled buffer zone on Sunday were a "blatant threat to peace".

#### Israeli justice minister quits

Israel's justice minister, Yaakov Neeman, resigned yesterday after the attorney general ordered a police probe into whether he had interfered with a legal investigation.

New England Journal of Medicine, 16 out of 22 children who had transplants were cured. However, two died and four rejected the transplants, which may only be suitable for around 1 per cent of sufferers.

Yugoslavia, have been forced into prostitution in Italy in the 1990s, the Catholic charity Caritas said in a report yesterday. Most were aged 14 to 18, it said. — Reuter.

#### Sickle cell finding

American researchers have found that bone marrow transplants can completely cure some sufferers of potentially fatal sickle cell disease, writes Ian Katz in New York. According to a study in the

Officials charged Bangladesh authorities yesterday charged two customs officials in connection with the murder of a Briton of Bangladeshi origin, writes Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka. Siraj Mia, a restaurant owner in London, was allegedly beaten by officials at Dhaka airport last May after an altercation.

Jobless protest Hundreds of young jobless from the disputed Western Sahara region were yesterday continuing a six-day peaceful demonstration and sit-in in Rabat to press for jobs and social benefits. Moroccan riot police were deployed but said they had no plans to intervene. — Reuter.

#### Algerian blast

A home-made bomb yesterday exploded in a central Algiers coffee shop wounding at least seven, residents and security forces said. — Reuter.

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Avoiding Short shrift

If Tony is autocratic, why is Clare still in a job?

ARE CLARE SHORT'S criticisms of the Labour leadership correct? There is no neat answer. Some of them are and some of them are not. She is right to regret that Tony Blair's leadership style has become less inclusive than he once promised it would be.

particularly because the modern party has begun to lose touch with constructive ways in which that can be done. New Labour's high command is increasingly in danger of not listening to any messages which it has not drafted itself.

There is, though, a time and a place for grown-up politicians to do such things. Politics is a ruthless business, and the opposition parties are ranged against an immensely strong incumbent.

Testing time for nuclear ban

There is a way to confound the hawks and hypocrites

A COMPREHENSIVE test ban treaty (CTBT) is now tantalisingly near, yet far away from conclusion. Today, at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament (CD), negotiations re-open after a double delay caused separately by India and China.

five is China. India's own twilight status as a threshold nuclear power, anxious lest a CTBT might cramp any move to overtake nuclear weaponry in the future, weakens the moral force of its argument.

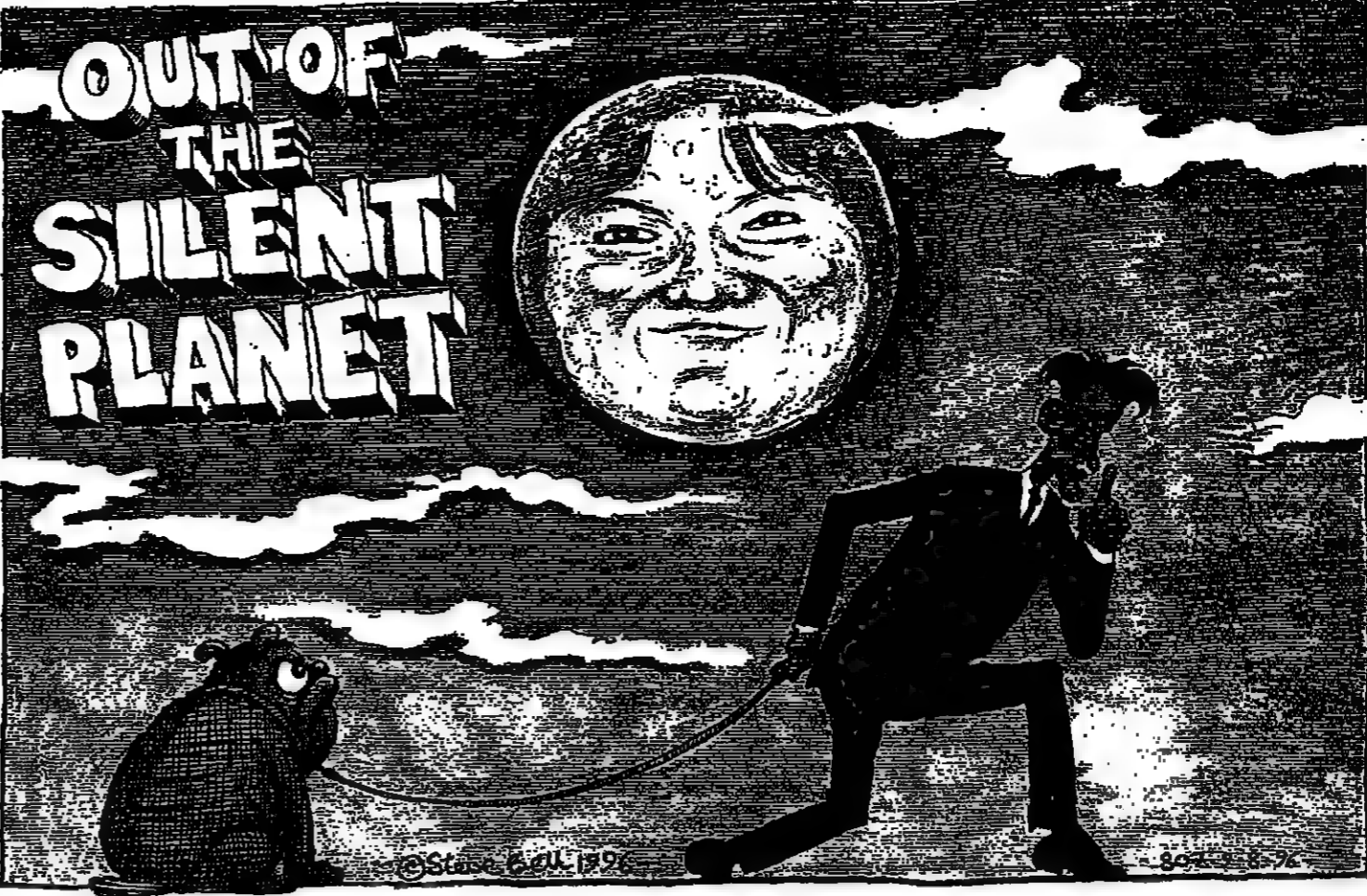
There are three possible ways out of the dilemma. One is that India will eventually change its mind. This is highly unlikely unless the whole strategic picture on the sub-continent is transformed first.

The high cost of name-dropping

Imitation can turn out to be the costliest form of flattery

IT IS time to congratulate Fortes. First, Forte UK, for dropping the action it planned to bring against a café in Winchester on the grounds that, by calling itself Forte Tearooms, it was threatening the business of the nearby Forte Crest hotel.

in the town would be putting up Harrods signs, and the town would from now on be calling itself Harrods. The locus classicus here is the case of the Morning Star, which tried to make the Daily Star call itself something else.



Letters to the Editor
Journeys into space

PAUL Davies claims (Return ticket to Mars August 8) that since around 500kg of Martian material reaches Earth every year, "the same thing is bound to happen in reverse".

THIS apparent discovery raises the possibility that if two planets orbiting the same star can give rise to living organisms, then it is more likely than not that life is very common in this universe.

THERE is, of course, more to the story about the Martian fossil than meets the eye. It is, in fact, the first phase of a managed news story, agreed by both the terrestrial and Martian governments.

Yet another letters-page debate about the Member for Ladywood

CLARE Short's criticism of Gparty "advisers" to Tony Blair is thorny (Short flays Blair's 'dark men', August 8). The Labour movement, in common with most of the population, is desperate for the return of a Labour government.

THE leadership has abused this loyalty by dragging the party to the right so that on many issues you couldn't squeeze a cigarette paper between Tony Blair and John Major.

WHAT fills Clare Short with such self-importance that she seems determined to court controversy on such a regular basis? She must be living on another planet if she doesn't realise that the only people she is helping are the Tories.

Miracle cure

YOUR leader (Seeking justice for the Tigers, August 6) brings into sharp focus, the issues of corruption, poverty, rich-poor gap, environmental crime that plague the states of Asia.

It is not important to have the Westminster model or any variant to the presidential system of the Environment's latest survey of Public Attitudes to the Environment, 85 per cent stated that they were very, or quite, concerned about the environment.

DAVID McKie (A history that huge Bognor to this day, August 7) suggests that it was Noel Coward who decided the name Basingstoke was a joke. In fact, the joke goes back at least to Gilbert & Sullivan's Ruddigore, first produced in 1877.

Town talk

DAVID McKie (A history that huge Bognor to this day, August 7) suggests that it was Noel Coward who decided the name Basingstoke was a joke. In fact, the joke goes back at least to Gilbert & Sullivan's Ruddigore, first produced in 1877.

Having lived in Surbiton for more than 15 years, I can reassure David McKie that it is not "a symbol for self-righteous suburbia". If it deserves the epithet, "a cauldron of steamy sex", that, so far, has escaped me.

CLARE Short is quoted in the Daily Mail among other papers as saying the Labour Party "should cut back on modifying everything we stand for". I don't mean to be a spoilsport, but it was not so long ago that Ms Short did

Seeing red over the question of green TV

ROS Coward is right to be wary of the environmental issues (The world not about us on the television, August 5). Commissioning editors may have "moved on" to other issues, but the public's concern about the environment remains strong.

George Monbiot was invited to present his green manifesto in I TV's PM Channel 4 also covered The Land Is Ours occupation in Wandsworth over four nights. Most significant perhaps is Channel 4's sustained coverage of the Ogoni tribespeople's fight against Shell Oil.

Over the last decade, media coverage of every environmental issue from global warming to the dangers of landfill sites, has helped create an audience with a sophisticated and politicised understanding of man's relationship to the natural world.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Roe deer in this county differ widely in their habitat and this reflects in their size and fecundity. Animals which live in woods adjacent to agricultural land are larger than the forest deer and carry markedly better horns due to lush feed.

hurry. Far away, a church clock struck the hour - eight o'clock. Then a fox appeared, picking his way through the grass, unconcerned with the rabbits. He had either fed, or his sights were set on more succulent fare; we saw regular evidence of pheasant mortality from Charlie in this plantation.

Lost the A

Peter Preston

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Spin

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

Diary  
Matthew Norman

WITH New Labour enjoying so much publicity, it is sad to report that a Liberal Democrat document on the water industry has been largely ignored, even though its author, Matthew Taylor, describes it as the first of its kind ever produced by a political party. Wow. Such originality is a precious thing indeed. There is, however, confusion in the office of Labour's Frank Dobson, where staff seem to remember Mr Dobson releasing seven papers on water, including last summer's pamphlet Money Down The Drain. Still, Mr Taylor probably wasn't aware of them. Coincidentally, four months ago Mr Dobson's office had a request from the Commons Library for a full set of those documents. When a curious assistant asked who wanted them, the Librarian said it was a Labour colleague or a Tory, but refused to answer when asked if it was a Liberal. "I hope that now I have published this document, which will be beneficial to the vast majority of people," says Mr Taylor, "other parties will feel braver about telling the truth." Mmm.

Na welcome outbreak of good news for Labour, meanwhile the policy of rapid rebuttal continues to work splendidly. Only yesterday, little Oofy Wegg-Prosser rapidly rebutted the suggestion that Mandy Mandelson, the disco-loving MP for Hartlepool, was among those Tony Blair advisers savaged in the New Statesman by Clare Short... one of the malevolent little warlocks she calls "the people who live in the dark". Oofy was quite clear on the matter: "It's definitely not Mandy," he said. "I have no idea why his picture's in today's papers." Whether or not he lives in the dark, Mandy has been pallid lately, so I told Oofy that I would treat him to two 30-minute sessions on a sunbed. "No thank you, she's quite all right," said Oofy. Only. At least we offered.

CONCERN mounts once again for the mental equilibrium of Peter Hitchens. As the You, The Jury comedy heard episode proved, Peter has always struggled with the distinction between fact and fiction. Now, following the incest scene in Brookside, Peter has railed in the Express at the power of soaps to corrupt those who "can now barely tell the drama from the reality. In EastEnders especially. It is hard to remember the real we are dealing with real life or fantasy." Dear oh dear, Peter. Why not try this little aide memoire? If, at the end of a show, the names of the characters appear on screen next to names of actors, it is "fantasy". If not, it is "real life". We hope this helps.

BOLMONDLEY Relief. The charity to alleviate the poverty of excitable MP Peter Bottomley, is coming together. Registration forms should be with the Charity Commissioners next week. Poor Bolmondley himself is on his annual camping holiday with Virginia on the Isle of Wight, and word has it that his old tent is in a terrible state, and can no longer keep out the rain. Eager to help, we called John Fraser MA (Oxon), MP's asking whether his boss, Michael Winner, would be prepared to donate a pair of his jumbo knickers as a replacement. "I'm very tied up at the moment," said Mr Fraser, "so could you please send a fax detailing the aims of Bolmondley Relief, which I can show to Mr Winner." This we have done. We hope to have the Y-fronts, complete with pegs, in transit by tonight. So hold on, Bolmondley.

WE return to our Book of the Month, A Locoman's Log 1977-85. We have reached Chapter Three: Through the Freight Links 1941-44, which finds Bill Alcock starting work at Vauxhall and Duddesdon. "Before I caught the 9.45am train from Walsall to get me to work at 10.30am," he writes, "I had to purchase a three-monthly season ticket, on which I had a concession of a quarter of the fare." Good news, you might think — but I had to pay the full fare to take my bicycle with me."



# Lost in the woods — the American dream

## Commentary Peter Preston

THEY all have the dream, the American Dream. Bill has it, Bob has it, even Ross Perot and Lamu have it. Let's dream it, let's swim in mush. Three weeks of consolidated Olympics dreaming and presidential dreaming are beginning to deliver chronic insomnia. There is, after all, no such thing as the British dream: or the Belgian dream; or even the German dream. You wouldn't find John Major on his feet proclaiming that he has a dream, as opposed to a twinge of indignation; or Helmut Kohl turning visionary of the night after a big plate of bratwurst. It is not our (European) style. A single currency may have his dream-like touches, but how can something called the euro arrive bathed in syrup and cream?

No, the Dream seems a specifically American invention. It appears, so far as one can tell, to embody "the hopes and aspirations of the American people". Every politician naturally wants a piece of that cake: which, in turn, means it can be sliced any which way. It means everything and nothing, found everywhere and nowhere. It is the heart of the campaign and the canny floss of exhausted rhetoric. I have, dutifully, been attempting to follow the dream for a few days, to read the signs and find the trail. Not easy. Part of the dream, of course, is the call of the wild and the great outdoors. But California's pseudo-wilderness is full of withering injunctions. "Beware mountain lions. In case of encounter, stand straight and show no fear. Do not bend over. Sticks or stones may be thrown. Children should always be carried." Who fancies a 10-mile hike through lion country carrying a kid and a pile of stones? Coastlines, meanwhile, are "naturally dynamic, with creating waves and crumbling cliffs. Rocks are slippery. Large, unexpected surges can sweep you off your feet. Play it safe — don't climb rocks, or go into the water sea". No hitting. No swimming. No parking. No tangle with rattlesnakes. (Part of our "natural heritage" and therefore a protected species.) No No No smoking. No alcohol. No feeding the animals. "Bread and snacks are bad for squirrels, deer and birds." The dream may include old

John Wayne movies and a four-wheel-drive Toyota to bring the shopping back from the mall — but otherwise it is cramped and paunchy and urban and subservient. Authority is perennially parked in a side road just over the hill, waiting to hand out a ticket. Such outward visibility, of course, are only a chapter or two of Dream Quest '96; though they do betoken an officiousness, a hectoring regimentation which is either the hated Big Government or the kind of regime that remains thinking unnecessary. But the bigger book, I think, is also essentially about freedom of spirit. Bob Dole has just begun to lumber up for the San Diego convention. A worried 75-year-old with an Autocue style of guaranteed somnambular efficiency, promising year upon year of lower taxes. His dream, Freedom equals more cash in your pocket. Bill Clinton, meanwhile, pausing only to bless the new torch of the Atlanta paraplegic games as the wheelchair head south from Washington, apparently reckons that enough miserable voters dream of withdrawing welfare payments from the disabled and the sick and the immigrant old to make that part of his vision. The argument between the two men who would be president on November 6 is drawn solely in

dollars and grievance. It has all the fervour, all the moral principle, of a sun-dried tomato. Two stops in two places a couple of hours apart seem to me to sum up the truer choice. Yesterday afternoon I drifted round Pebble Beach and the encircling 17-Mile Drive from Monterey to Carmel. There are six golf courses of legendary splendour along the way, and hilltop mansions sunk among the dunes and woodlands. For a seven-dollar toll you may briefly glimpse how the freedom of ultimate wealth enhances and inspires. Or, as the sign by the Lone Cypress reads, "Beware mountain lions". Scopazzi's Inn the owner hovers by the door, guiding a flow of diners and cocktail consumers. Italian? "No, I'm from the Lebanon, from Beirut." He was an assistant librarian at the American embassy in 1972 when a friendly diplomat from Boulder Creek got him to America and a job waiting tables at the inn. "Now I own the joint." If there is still a dream, it is in this unique mixture of people from far away gathered along a single street or round a single fishing pond, sheltering and building something. Here, to this day, you feel a generosity and a determination to do better. There is scant echo of that in the dreaming fuz of Dole and Clinton. They, in detail, talk only of exclusion. Of checks to overseas as necessary, in sickness and in indigence. Some dream? More the modern nightmare of the churchill pocketbook. My favourite notice was handwritten, stuck on a telephone pole near the brewery. "A 100 dollar reward," it said. "Lost in the woods: my beloved rooster, Gypsy." If Bill or Bob pass through the Creek this fall, I rather hope Gypsy comes home and gives them a nip.

Authority is perennially parked in a side road just over the hill, waiting to hand out a ticket. stands there, after 300 years, hauled upright by wires like a decrepit courtisan, a marvel of nature under full copyright: a symbol to remember. The other stop was in a place where the redwood forests shut out any sun which could dry tomatoes. Boulder Creek is a small stop down Route 9 from Saratoga to Santa Cruz in the deep valleys of the San Lorenzo River. Three miles along the road we're talking Scots immigra-

tion. The local reservoir is called Loch Lomond. You reach it by turning left down Glen Arbor Road, not right to Benny Doot. But the fishermen around the reservoir talk in Polish and German and Czech, with only Spanish on the jetties. Walk for 15 minutes and hear no English. Boulder Creek doesn't boast any Highland veneer. There are 5,000 people strewn down Main Street and scattered in the woods. They brew a little beer and make a little wine. The cabin motel up Big Basin Highway is run by Mr and Mrs Patel, who used to live in Wembley and keep a newspaper in Lillingdon. Next door Scopazzi's Inn the owner hovers by the door, guiding a flow of diners and cocktail consumers. Italian? "No, I'm from the Lebanon, from Beirut." He was an assistant librarian at the American embassy in 1972 when a friendly diplomat from Boulder Creek got him to America and a job waiting tables at the inn. "Now I own the joint." If there is still a dream, it is in this unique mixture of people from far away gathered along a single street or round a single fishing pond, sheltering and building something. Here, to this day, you feel a generosity and a determination to do better. There is scant echo of that in the dreaming fuz of Dole and Clinton. They, in detail, talk only of exclusion. Of checks to overseas as necessary, in sickness and in indigence. Some dream? More the modern nightmare of the churchill pocketbook. My favourite notice was handwritten, stuck on a telephone pole near the brewery. "A 100 dollar reward," it said. "Lost in the woods: my beloved rooster, Gypsy." If Bill or Bob pass through the Creek this fall, I rather hope Gypsy comes home and gives them a nip.

# Have fun, Linford: see if we care



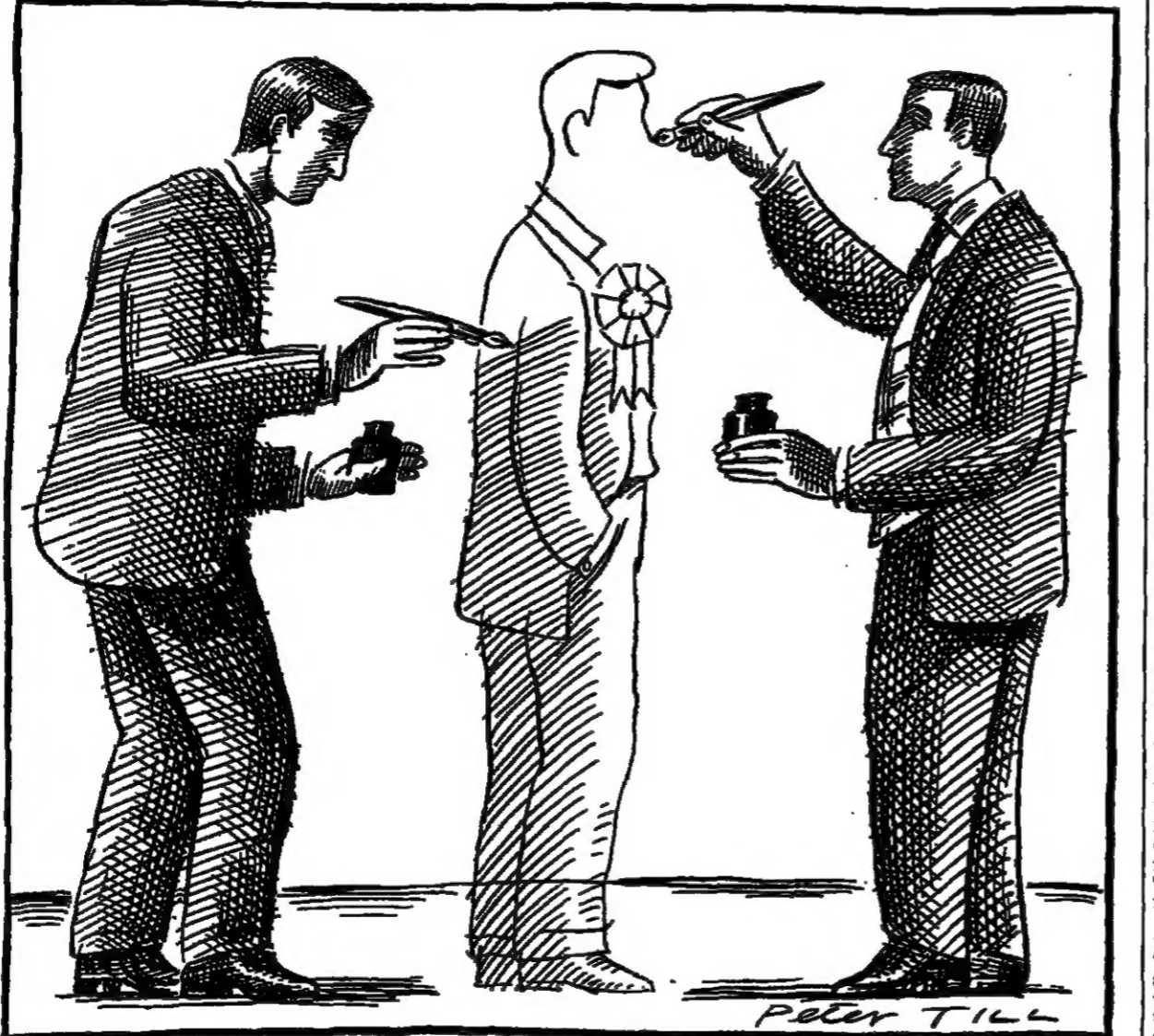
Meg Henderson

DON'T know if you noticed the British Olympic team returning home from Atlanta the other day, but there were some familiar faces missing. Seems that a few of the big names in track and field, Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and Jonathan Edwards included, took a like the detour to an international meeting in the Italian Alpine resort of Sestriere, where they will presumably earn a crust in appearance or prize money. Nothing wrong with that: I'm all in favour of people using whatever talents they possess to make a living. But hang on a minute — weren't we lambasted with demands for cash by these same high-profile athletes but seconds ago? They were giving their all for their country, they bleated, yet they were forced to exist on hand-outs. They were on the dole because employers wouldn't give them enough time off to train, and all this sacrifice was compounded by an ungrateful nation refusing to provide the elite with proper training facilities. We are doing it for you, they wailed; pay up for our gold medals. It's all claptrap, of course, and I don't think I am alone in not giving a monkey's tootie about it. The Olympics, or at that nice little earner at Sestriere come to that. If you cut through the whining and carping, you will see that the rest of us are earning cash to keep body, soul and the odd Porsche together. They no more "do it for the country" than I write for Britain, a plumber plumbs for it, or a binman empties rubbish for it. They do it for themselves, because they like doing it; they may be good at it, and because these days they can coin it in faster than some can run the 100 metres. More years ago than I care to recall, I spent every weekend climbing, hill-walking and canoeing. I dreaded going back to work on Monday. I would far rather have spent the whole week doing what I liked. I didn't, however, expect or demand that the nation provide me with the wherewithal to do that: I figured that if I couldn't earn a living at it I would have to do something else to fund my weekends. And how nice it would have been to take myself off to foreign climes, where the living is easier in the warm sunshine. It simply didn't occur to me to do the red, white and blue livery and say: "I am doing this for the

nation, for you — gimme load-samoney to do it or I will sulk!" There are lots of things I would finance ahead of handing athletes cash to do with as they wish. There's the health service for instance, now bleeding to death before our eyes, and health-service workers who are regularly offered wage increases ranging from 0.5 to 2 per cent by ex-shoe salesman who whizz past their picket lines in their company BMWs. There's care for the elderly, the mentally ill and the handicapped, providing help for the generations of kids growing up without a hope of ever finding employment. The cynical disregard shown for the weakest and most helpless in society demonstrates the priorities of the country far better than a lorry-load of gold medals won by a few athletes — though no prizes for guessing which would provide the best photo opportunity for the politicians. Certainly we should provide sporting facilities, but for everyone, not especially for a chosen few. If that is the career they have chosen, then let them build it; those who want to watch them at work will presumably fund them by paying for the privilege. And if they get grants, why shouldn't they be obliged to pay them back, as every other money new has to do? When Linford Christie flunked in Atlanta, David Moorcroft commented on TV that even if the great whinger's Olympic career was now ended, he was financially secure and would not have to work again. Like the rest of you says, he should have said, who would have made it even easier for him to become a big earner by providing whatever he needed.

WHEN the man himself appeared before the world's press, he said he didn't really care, he was just having fun — the truth at last. Then, in a breathtaking display of self-delusion, he said he "felt sorry" for the British public. Linford, it was only a 10-second race; it didn't matter much to the British public. There was no sobbing in the streets; we managed somehow to get on with our lives while you had fun. The problems of an ageing runner don't amount to a hill of beans in real life. By the way, how's the weather in Italy? When the siff of athletics makes it into the big money, people like Christie and Liz McColgan, for instance, do they then turn round and declare: "No, no! I didn't do it for the cash, I did it for my country." Take this load-samoney away and give it to the kids I grew up with, who didn't happen to be good at running, the kids who will never know what it is to have a job! Oh come on, grow up.

Meg Henderson is the author of Finding Peggy (Corgi). Bel Litlejohn is missing.



Who are the spin doctors and are they a Good Thing? Julia Langdon tells their story. We also asked David Blunkett (below) whether Clare Short was right

# Spin, whores, spin

IT IS surprising, really, that in seeking to denigrate the despised spin doctors of modern politics, Clare Short did not evoke the celebrated comment of the First Earl of Pembroke. This is most commonly quoted as: "Go spin, you jades, go spin," but would have been much more satisfactory in this context in the original: "Out ye whores, to work, to work, ye whores, go spin."

The spin doctor, as such, has only been with us a short while. The description, applied to political news management, arrived here from the United States within the last 10 years, having been adapted from the spin given to a ball in flight in order to fool the recipient. Whatever it is called, though, spinning has always been with us. It may be irritating to those who are subjected to it — the journalists; insulting to those who are the unwitting recipients — the public; and infuriating to those who are the unwilling victims — like Clare Short. It is nevertheless a timeless practice of those who seek to massage the message, and it is here to stay. The object of the exercise is to extract the best possible outcome of any given situation for your client. Every politician has been trying to do this since Alfred burnt the cakes, but it is only in the second half of the 20th century that news management has been developed as a professional art. Its growth naturally coincided in exact proportion with the anxiety of the individual politician over his public image.

Thus Harold Wilson, who became obsessed with the press, was most concerned that he should be correctly interpreted, and put endless effort into ensuring that this was the case. Every Labour leader since has made progressively greater efforts to influence the reporting of their activities. The irony of

her to aim her criticisms directly at the Labour leadership. But she knows that there are many people within the Labour Party who dislike the way it is being managed today, who resent the intrusion of professionals into democratic politics, and who feel that this is damaging the basic structure of the political process in Britain today. They do not like the way things are moving. They fear it could even cost them the election.

# Don't throw away victory

ANYONE believing that Labour should ignore economic and social change should read George Dangerfield's The Strange Death of Liberal England. It shows how the Liberal Party in the early years of this century crumbled as it lost touch with the electorate it sought to serve. Tony Blair is determined that Labour should not make that mistake. He knows that Labour must change for the 21st century and he has strong views on what we must do together. These views are at the root of what he says in private and in public. Advisers will all advise — but Tony knows his own mind. And

whether it is on Clause Four or the new manifesto, he has initiated debates and consulted the entire membership of the Labour Party in the process. When Conservative leaders call for discipline in the run-up to the election, they are admired. When Tony does the same, he is portrayed as being brutal. The reality is that the Tories have not known how to attack him on policy, so they are doing their best to undermine him with personalised attacks. We should contribute to change and use effective modern presentation methods. Electoral popularity is not betrayal. The notion

that socialism has to be unpopular — and that, if it is not, we should suspect that there has been some sort of abandonment of our values and principles — is nonsense. It is equally dangerous to assume that we can afford to be complacent, because, as some colleagues seem to imagine, "we have already won the general election". We have not won yet. The Conservatives have been fighting back with their usual lies and smears — and they have the resources at their disposal to appeal directly to those sections of the electorate on whom Labour relies. There is only one betrayal which the people we

seek to represent fear most of all. That is that Labour will throw away the chance of gaining office and carrying through the progressive and radical policies set out in New Labour, New Life For Britain. These are policies which will transform Britain, renewing our economy, restoring social cohesion and raising educational standards to enable people to escape the poverty trap. These are policies to promote self-reliance with improved skills to give people the chance to work, to earn and contribute to our society. Today's Labour Party offers the only hope of preparing Britain for the challenges of the millennium, where we must compete in a global economy, embrace technological change, and prosper in a very different

# SHE HAS NOWHERE LEFT TO TURN.



# PLEASE DON'T TURN THE PAGE

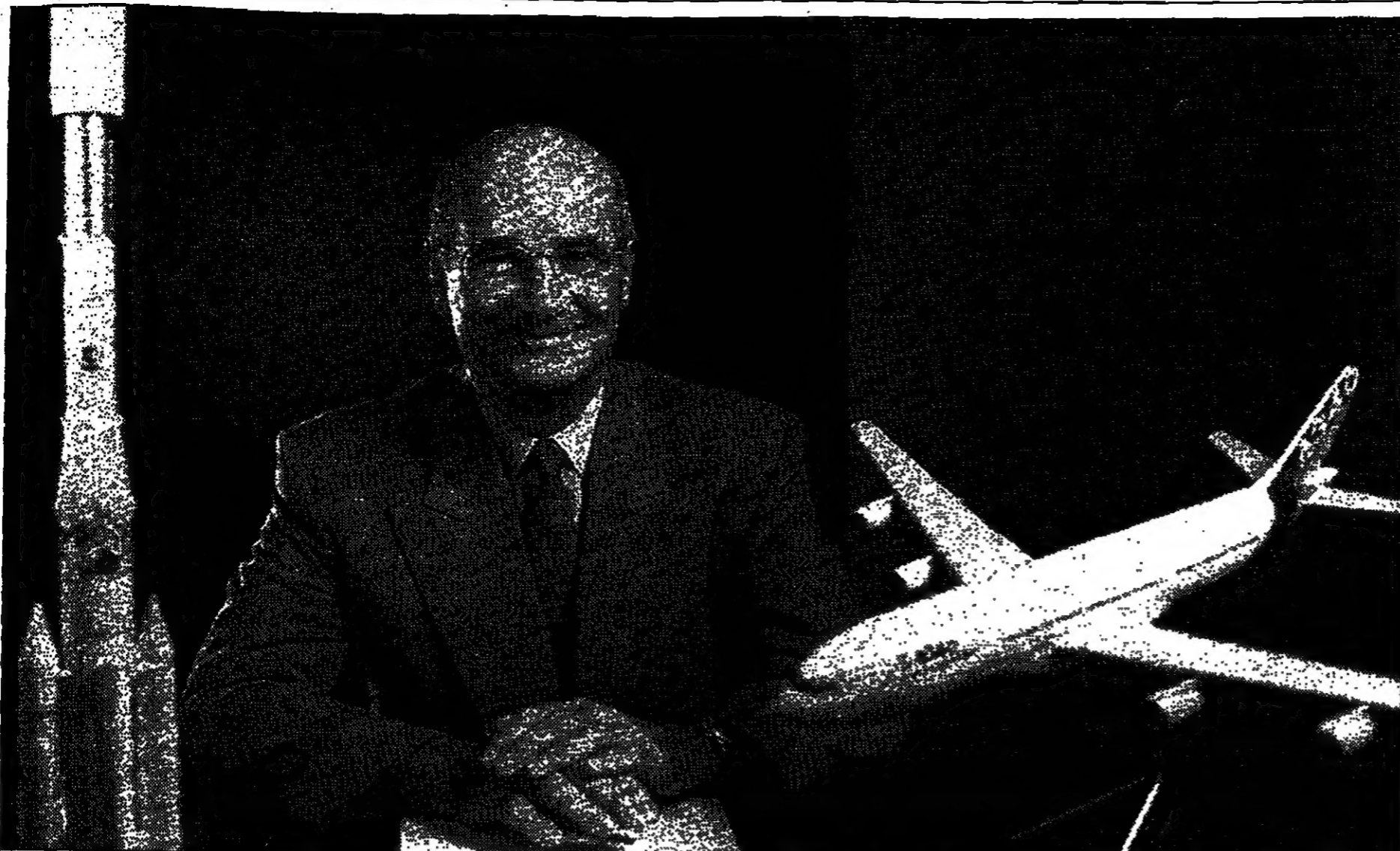
You could be Tsering's last hope. She has little or no food to eat, and lives in a tiny, insalubrious mud shack. Without help soon she could die. Yet by sponsoring an elderly person like Tsering for just \$10 a month, you could provide the food, clothing and medicines they need to survive. In return, you'll receive regular reports on your adopted grandparent. For more details, please complete the form below.

Yes, I'm interested in helping an elderly person overseas. Please send me details. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms Address Postcode Tel. No. Secure to: Helen Riggs Adopt a Grandy Help the Aged, FREEMPOST London, E9 6JZ. Help the Aged Adopt a Grandy Registered Charity No 27765





U His Than  
Death  
in jail



Under his wing... Yves Michot is seen as ideal candidate to unite French military and civil aircraft manufacturers — and then negotiate pan-European alliances

# Aerospace urged to unite

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**E**FFORTS to create a pan-European aerospace industry capable of matching US rivals gathered pace yesterday when the new chairman of Aérospatiale called on his fellow industrialists to "regroup" their interests.

In the most striking indication yet that the French aerospace industry is casting off its traditional hostility to a Europe-wide restructuring, Yves Michot said leading airframe companies should "combine their forces".

Speaking on French radio, Mr Michot said the regrouping was in the interests of British Aerospace, Germany's Dasa and his own company which is beginning to integrate with the military aircraft company Dassault.

Adding that Casa of Spain and Alenia of Italy could also play a part, he said: "We know what the problems are in this area. For the moment we do not know the solutions." Mr Michot said the moves would go beyond civil aircraft to include more contentious sectors such as military aircraft and space technology.

British Aerospace welcomed the statement from Mr Michot, who was confirmed as head of the Aérospatiale-Dassault combine on Wednesday by the French cabinet.

A BAE spokesman said the company "wholly supports this stance". He added: "The group has long advocated much greater integration of European companies and we are delighted at Mr Michot's appointment."

The BAE board has recently forecast that the company will ultimately be absorbed into a wider European grouping. Mergers will come in civil aerospace first, and plans to put Airbus on a more commercial footing are under way. BAE and Dassault are, however, already working together on a new generation of fighter aircraft.

City analysts also welcomed the statement, forecasting a fresh spate of alliances and joint ventures across European borders, one analyst said there had been a "sea change" in European thinking about the need for mergers in military and civil aircraft production.

He said: "The social, economic and political implications are still barriers to proper rationalisation. But there is scope for joint ventures."

Before full mergers could be a resolution of differing ownership structures, financial performance and political priorities.

Sash Tusa, analyst with UBS, said restructuring was needed urgently in Europe if it was to be competitive against the US defence and aerospace industries, which are merging much faster.

He said: "The Americans are getting much better at cost control, and it is increasingly hard for the Europeans to catch up when corporate restructuring is moving at a much slower pace."

Mr Michot's main task is to integrate Dassault and Aérospatiale, a prerequisite for participation in cross-border mergers because, analysts say, it will give the French group a "critical mass".

Mr Michot's appointment was supported by Dassault and he is said to be respected by the Aérospatiale workforce.

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## BAe to recruit scores of engineers after winning military contracts

**BRITISH** Aerospace is looking to recruit scores of engineers after its success in winning Ministry of Defence contracts, writes Chris Barrie.

The recruitment campaign will boost the numbers of engineering staff at the military aircraft divisions in Warton, near Preston, Farnborough, and Brough, Humberside, to work on upgrading 21 Nimrod long-range patrol aircraft. Engineers are also being sought for the missile division plants in Stevenage and Bristol, following MoD approval for the development of an air-launched cruise missile.

The division announced 18 months ago that it was to shed 1,350 staff, many of them skilled design engineers and technicians, because of a drop in orders. Those cuts left the division, BAE Dynamics, with 2,500 staff, against 15,500 people five years earlier.

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# Rank reveals too little for City's liking

**OUTLOOK/Leaks**  
steal new chief's thunder, writes  
Lisa Buckingham

**W**HEN it comes to debut performances, yesterday's appearance by Andrew Teare, the new chief executive of Rank Organisation, could hardly fail to seem a tad passé.

Not that Mr Teare, who was unveiling the first results since taking over at the helm, lacked enthusiasm. It was just that Rank's advisers had leaked the details of his restructuring plans with such vigour that the poor old boss was left with most of his thunder gone.

Long before Mr Teare got to his feet, the market knew he hoped to raise about £300 million from selling businesses such as the Shearings coach holidays, Precision Industries and Kingston Plantation.

It had also "emerged" that the company has devised a structure to allow the sale of its remaining stake in photocopy company Rank Xerox and avert the tax liability it should incur unless it waits five years. With that likely sale — possibly raising £1.2 billion at today's prices — Rank also let it be known that it would show only its dividend income, rather than its share of total profits at Xerox. Latest profits included only £24 million of Xerox dividends in the first half, against £57 million last year.

Nevertheless, as shares sank by 27p to 441p, there was clearly enough news in yesterday's profit and strategy announcements to disappoint the market.

Underlying operating profits, 12 per cent up on this time last year, were in line with expectations but analysts appeared disappointed that Mr Teare had not taken the opportunity to shed more of Rank's traditional reticence about full financial disclosure.

Although the market welcomed Mr Teare's fresh look

at Rank's sprawling business empire, there was insufficient information to inspire confidence that the right decisions were being made.

Mr Teare has put a brake on the £100 million-a-time Oasis holiday developments because he needs to be convinced they will achieve the 20 per cent return promised by some of his operating staff. The group has also put out to tender its £1.5 million audit account after five years toying with the idea, and expects to save well over £500,000 a year as a result.

It will use some cash-flow savings to plough into brands it regards as having the best potential as well as those, such as Odeon cinemas, which have been overlooked for too long.

The worry about Rank remains that even now it is not prepared to bite the bullet hard enough. The group is shoving its 23 companies into four business divisions which should cut up to £17 million a year from overheads. And Mr Teare is selling a handful of businesses, but not many.

Company executives remain unconvinced about the long-term rationale for combining operations as diverse as Butlin's holiday camps, Pinewood studios and Hard Rock Cafés.

Yes there are opportunities to exploit the Hard Rock brand through record labels, resorts and television stations. With an extra Café due to open every month for the next 18 months, analysts reckon the brand could be worth upwards of £1 billion.

But downmarket operations such as bingo and Butlin's do not — whatever the leisure gurus like to claim — offer cross-selling opportunities with image-conscious outlets such as Hard Rock. Mr Teare — whose planned appointment of 200 managers in the coming three years implies the addition of about 5,000 jobs group-wide — should have another look, and soon.

Until then the prospect of about £1.5 billion of cash to invest in a still-confused empire will be worrying indeed.

### Rank Organisation

Stock market value £3.7bn  
Share price 441p ▼ 27p  
Workforce 37,500  
Interest cover 1.4

Main activity: Hard Rock Cafés, theme parks, Butlins holiday camps, bingo, film and TV services

Share price (p)

Out goes Rank Xerox, Shearings coach holidays and Precision Engineering. In comes More Hard Rock Cafés, Japanese theme park, a record label and film company

## News in brief

### Directors to receive even bigger bonuses

TOP directors can typically earn bonuses of 40-60 per cent on top of their basic pay, according to a study from the remuneration adviser Monks Partnership. Although most senior executives did not achieve that last year, the potential for large bonus payments is increasing, the report says. More than 29 of the leading 100 companies say they are abandoning share-option rewards for executives. But nearly nine out of 10 of Britain's biggest firms will soon install long-term incentive plans. — Lisa Buckingham

### Swalec standards under fire

STEPHEN Littlechild, the electricity regulator, has expressed concern about the failure of South Wales regional electricity company Swalec to meet customer standards. The utility, part of Welsh Water's Hyder group, paid customers a total of £5,040 for 601 cases of not meeting guaranteed service standards during 1995-96. This is the highest failure rate per 100,000 customers of all the 14 power suppliers. Electricity suppliers have to pay customers £20 or £40 each time they do not meet certain standards such as missing appointments. — Reuter

### BCCI chief may be deported

FORMER BCCI treasurer Syed Akbar, who is alleged to have extorted \$15 million (£10 million) from the collapsed bank, was recommended for extradition to the US yesterday. Magistrates at Bow Street, London, had previously allowed an application from lawyers for Mr Akbar, aged 52, to withdraw a "waiver" he signed at the court in March consenting to his removal to America.

This followed a successful High Court challenge to the procedure which allowed the Home Secretary not to intervene after the waiver had been given. Now the Secretary of State may approve the extradition or order Mr Akbar, of Golders Green, north London, to be discharged. — Press Association

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,522S	France 7.5S	Italy 2,29S	Singapore 2,13S
Austria 15.6Z	Germany 2,21S	Ireland 2,58S	South Africa 6.7Z
Belgium 45.7Z	Greece 358.0Z	Netherlands 2,49S	Spain 188.5Z
Canada 2,068Z	Hong Kong 71.9S	New Zealand 2,184Z	Sweden 10.0Z
Cyprus 0.666S	India 54.6Z	Norway 8.62Z	Switzerland 1.2Z
Denmark 8.9Z	Ireland 0.92Z	Portugal 229.2Z	Turkey 124,89Z
Finland 8.637Z	Israel 4.8S	Saudi Arabia 5.7S	USA 1.507S

Supplied by NatWest Bank 142222222 Indian Rupee and Pound sterling.

## Heinz Record Year for Heinz

I am pleased to report that H.J. Heinz Company achieved record earnings in Fiscal 1996. Global sales reached US\$9.1 billion for the year, more than US\$1 billion higher than the record set last year. Earnings per share progressed in kind, increasing 10% to US\$1.75 from US\$1.59. Operating income increased 11% from US\$1.16 billion to US\$1.29 billion. Heinz continues to be attractive to investors seeking consistent, double-digit earnings growth. Over the past two years, Heinz's stock price appreciated 52% during a period that saw a major secondary stock offering of nearly 21.8 million shares, a three-for-two stock split and two dividend increases. The total return over that period for Heinz shareholders who reinvested their dividends was 67%, or more than 29% compounded annually.

Looking ahead, Heinz has excellent growth opportunities in six core categories where we are driving for global leadership. These categories are: foodservice; infant foods; retail ketchup and condiments; petfood; tuna; and weight control.

What distinguished these categories is that they are all very large; they are all growing globally; and, more importantly, they are all businesses in which Heinz enjoys leading brand positions and unique resources. We should also note that 26 of our brands will, this year, record sales of US\$100 million or more. Five additional brands are on the US\$100 million threshold. In summary, our growth plan is clear and achievable. We will continue to strengthen worldwide leadership and leverage in our six core categories. We will consolidate our acquisitions, relentlessly cut costs and attain higher standards in production efficiency. We will continue to grow overseas, with particular emphasis on emerging markets.

Sales	US\$9.11 billion
Net Income Before Tax	US\$1.02 billion
Net Income	US\$659 million

As I told security analysts last March, Heinz management possess unique skills in marketing, operations and finance and in the mysterious art of making profits, and we are fortunate to be backed by the dedication of our 43,300 co-workers worldwide. Together, we are committed to achieving double-digit growth in Fiscal 1997 and to attaining and expanding world leadership in our six core categories.

Dr. A.J.F. O'Reilly

# Credit Lyonnais chiefs face trial

Paul Webster in Paris

**T**HE French government has started prosecution proceedings against former chiefs of Credit Lyonnais, the nationalised French bank at the centre of one of the most spectacular international financial scandals of the century.

The finance minister, Jean Arthuis, hinted at possible fraud when he said yesterday that the justice ministry had been asked to investigate failures by executives to control CL subsidiaries when Jean-Yves Haberer was chairman from 1988 until he was sacked in November 1993 for mismanagement.

Fifteen foreign and 27 domestic judicial actions have already been taken against the state bank's subsidiaries, but the mother company has been investigated only by a parliamentary commission which said Mr Haberer acted honestly and honourably.

A judicial inquiry into the bank's former administration will inevitably involve examining the effectiveness of the entire government financial system and the responsibility of leading socialist and Gaullist politicians, financial chiefs and the governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet.

Between 1987 and 1993, Mr Trichet was head of the Treasury which was recently accused by President Jacques Chirac of failing to curb CL's excesses.

Quarrels between Mr Chirac and Mr Trichet over economic policy appear to have added to government determination to examine the governor's competence.

In revealing his decision to Le Monde newspaper, Mr Arthuis said that some CL executives may have been tempted to conceal wrong doing by subsidiaries while maintaining a virtuous stance inside the Credit Lyonnais itself.

He was determined to identify responsibility and call officials to account.

"I have a feeling that they have not wanted to tell the truth," he said.

## Postal strike victim claims jobs will go as profits take nosedive

Tony May

**T**HE postal workers' dispute has claimed its first business victim, hitting profits and jobs at Colleague Group, one of the fastest-growing small companies of the 1990s.

The Bath-based direct marketing company saw almost half its stock market value wiped out yesterday after warning that the strikes had caused profits for the first half of the year to fall from £1.56 million to £1 million.

Group chairman, James Robson, said the dispute has led some clients to defer their marketing campaigns. "This is the first time in our nine-year history that we have had a setback like this. We view these unfortunate events as a painful hiccup in our development plans."

The company claims the dispute has cost it some £5 million in lost revenue and about 20 jobs, out of a total of 100, are set to go at its offices in Bath and Bradford.

Mr Robson expects the problems to continue into the second half of the year but is confident of growth in 1997 as the group has won business from companies including Granada, Littlewoods and Reader's Digest.

The warning, which saw the company's value fall by more than 40 per cent to £33 million, came just days after the head of the Direct Marketing Association warned that up to 4,000 jobs could be lost if the strikes continued.

DMA director, David Robottom, said over the weekend that each one-day stoppage was costing the industry £11 million.

# Finance Guardian

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## SFO raids Winchester pair

Patrick Donovan and Paul Murphy

**P**OLICE have raided the Hampshire country homes of Charles Vincent and Ashley Levett — the two owners of the Winchester Commodities Group — as part of a global investigation into an alleged \$1.8 billion (£1.2 billion) fraud in the copper trading market.

City of London Police carried out the searches on Wednesday morning. The raid on the £15 million-a-year traders follows weeks of investigation by the SFO. The authorities launched an inquiry into the activities of British-based commodity dealers after the Japanese firm Sumitomo discovered huge losses made by "rogue trader" Yasuo Hamanaka. The scale of the alleged fraud is the subject of a global investigation and has been described as the biggest scandal ever to have hit the finan-

cial markets. Both Mr Vincent — who has been nicknamed "copperfingers" because of his dealing skills — and Mr Levett were understood to be in their Monaco apartments at the time of the raid. Both men, who are aged 35, have quit as directors, although they continue to own Winchester, which last year paid them £15 million, putting them among Britain's highest paid businessmen. Founded just five years ago, their firm has proved spectacularly successful in the metal

dealing market and is understood to have at one time been carrying out trades equivalent to 30 per cent of the world's entire supply of copper. An SFO spokeswoman said: "Officers from the Serious Fraud Office and the City of London Police executed search warrants on two residential premises in Hampshire yesterday as part of an ongoing investigation into the copper trading market." The SFO refused to comment on the names of the owners of the property. But the Guardian has established that police vis-

ited homes belonging to Mr Vincent and Mr Levett. Mr Vincent's house, The Old Rectory at West Tytherley, run by a 10-strong live-in staff, boasts its own heliport and gymnasium and horse-breeding stud. It is understood that the house is in the process of being shut down as Mr Vincent and his family are intending to live full-time in Monaco. Mr Levett has an equally palatial home, Eighton Manor, near Alresford. The spokesman for Winchester last night said: "All along,

Winchester and its shareholders have stated that they would co-operate with any inquiry into Sumitomo's losses. We have co-operated with the authorities in their investigation into all the market participants who have dealt with Sumitomo." Last night the Securities and Investments Board said that it was preparing to issue its preliminary findings from a complete review of the City's commodity markets which was instituted in response to the Sumitomo scandal.

## Notebook No friendly haven in service sector



Edited by Mark Milner

**T**WENTY-five years ago, almost eight million people in Britain worked in the manufacturing sector. Now the total is down to fewer than four million. By contrast, service sector employment has blossomed from 11 million to just over 16 million.

One area of the service sector which has played its part in job creation has been the finance industry. Employment in financial services is put at some 925,000, up by nearly 40 per cent over the past 30 years. The tide is, however, turning. Branch closures and new technology have been taking their toll in the banking sector for some time. On some estimates, about 16,000 jobs have gone since the mid-1980s while another 20,000 could be lost over the next few years. The insurance industry is also feeling the impact of changing times. The old-ways approach, personified perhaps by the Man from the Pru, has given way to newer, often telephone-based services. Increased competition is pushing the industry into mergers and job losses. Three months ago, Sun Alliance and Royal Indemnity announced a £5.4 billion merger that is expected to see the combined group shed some 1,800 jobs. Yesterday the United Friendly and Refuge groups announced that they, too, were getting together. Given that the merger is likely to cost some 1,800 jobs, it is perhaps as well that the resulting company will be called United Assurance rather than Friendly Refuge.

Other mergers and more job losses seem inevitable. The building societies are likely to add to the tally as more abandon their mutual roots or are acquired by other financial institutions. The fall in the numbers employed in financial services needs to be addressed. While the decline of manufacturing was offset by the rise in services, it remains to be seen which sector will provide the necessary future growth in jobs. We cannot all work for fast-food chains or theme restaurants.

### Price pressure

**Y**ESTERDAY'S poll of the high street by the Confederation of British Industry showed sales volumes in July at the second-highest level for five-and-a-half years, and only slightly down on June's even bigger haul. Both retailers and consumers appear to be benefiting. Brick trade is helping shops to reduce the ratio of their stocks to demand, and so beginning to feed through to wholesalers, which enjoyed a

## Facia fraud investigators move in on five addresses

**S**ERIOUS Fraud Office personnel yesterday raided premises connected with the crashed Facia group. One-time owner of stores including Freeman Hardy Willis, Contessa and Sock Shop. The agency is seeking evidence of criminal activity within the failed company. Addresses in Yorkshire and central London were searched by SFO officers working with South Yorkshire Police fraud squad. Warrants were executed at five premises, but no arrests were made. Facia collapsed in June 1, since when receivers KPMG have tried to recover about £2.5 million paid or loaned by Facia to companies connected with chairman Stephen Hinchliffe. The case was referred to the SFO on August 1, but its involvement became public only with yesterday's search warrants. Among the premises raided is believed to have been Facia's former head office at Parkhead Hall, near Sheffield. Facia's insolvency has been

marked pick-up in orders from the preceding month. Despite the continued strength of shopper demand, however, prices remain keen. One of the most striking findings of the Distributive Trades Survey is that the expectations of retailers — previously wildly over-optimistic — are now being met. So the claim by shop-owners that August will be the busiest month since December 1988 has to be taken seriously. A key factor behind the upbeat forecast is that outlets already planned their summer sales. Because the CBI poll measures sales volumes (rather than value or takings), cut-price deals will push up the numbers. Strong demand with subdued prices: it looks too good to last, and probably is. Either demand will begin to flag — which would be bad news for the broader economy, given that shoppers are leading the current recovery — or it will remain buoyant enough for retailers to mark up prices. This week the Bank of England raised the spectre of a 1980s-style consumer-led upturn, with investment and manufacturing watching from the sidelines, and the consequential rise in inflation. The Old Lady may have a point.

### ERM revisited

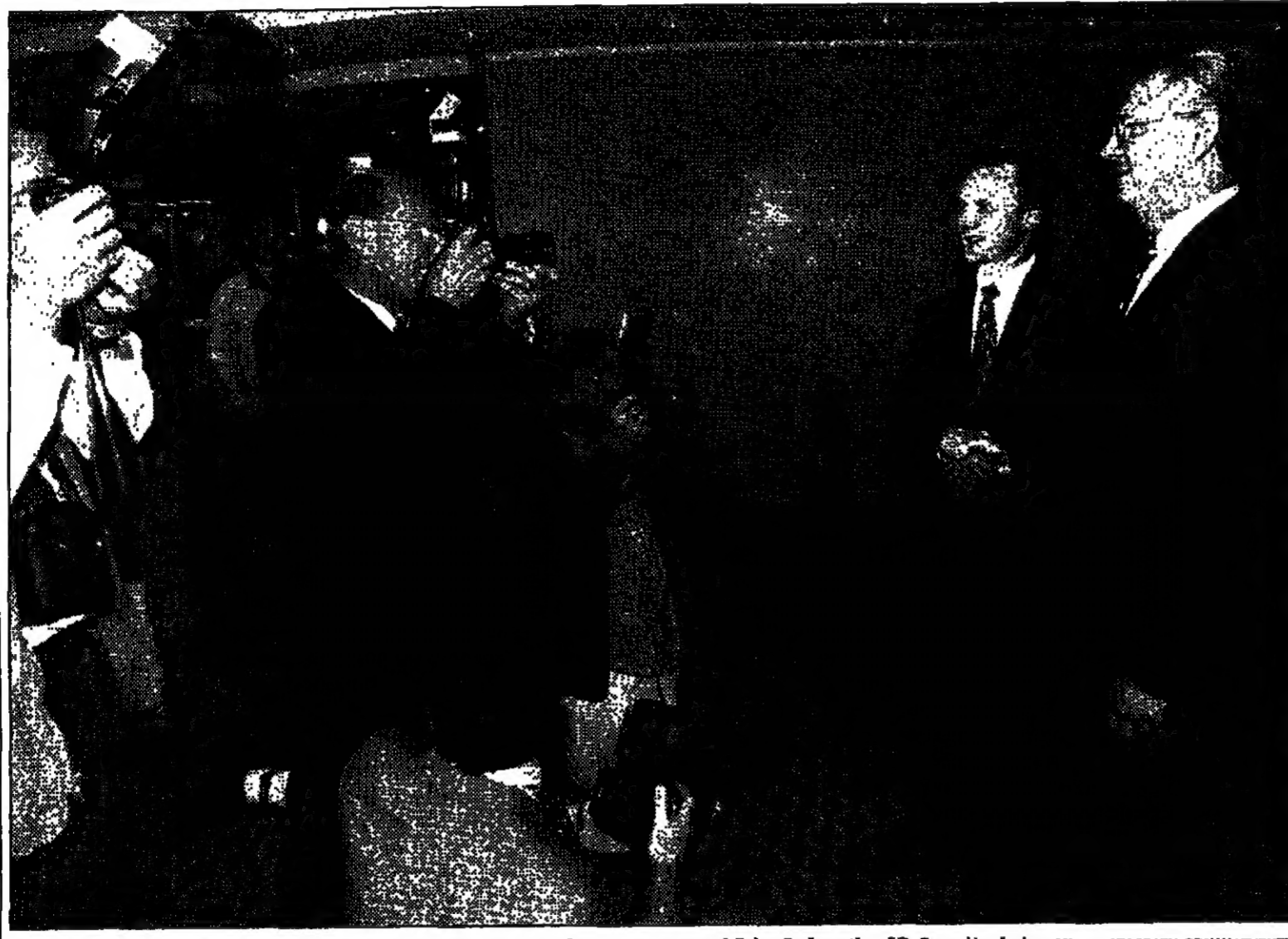
**E**XPECT at least the broad outlines of a revamped exchange rate mechanism by the end of the year, Belgian finance minister Philippe Maystadt said yesterday. The news will no doubt have currency dealers, whose only highlight this summer has been a half-hearted punt against the French franc earlier this week, reaching for the champagne. In their view, any structure that is firm enough to have meaning will present the opportunities for speculative attacks on the currencies involved. The problem for the politicians is that making the question of some sort of ERM replacement hard to avoid. Industrialists in countries which are "in" will not lightly accept unilateral devaluations among the "outs", whether or not they are overvalued. It is competitive trading advantages. But how can currency discipline be enforced? One idea gaining ground is that "outs" which did not play the game could be punished by withholding structural funds. That might come, but would such a threat constrain the UK, for example, which could be the leading "out" and which is a net contributor to the European Union? The problem is that politicians are looking for administrative solutions; laying down timetables, criteria, systems, whereas the lesson of the failure of the old ERM is that its stability was built on the belief in underlying economic convergence.

Many euro-enthusiasts see a single currency as essential to the single market. The importance of a properly functioning single market to the development of a single currency is too easily overlooked.

## United takes Refuge in a merger

Shake-out in life insurance sector continues, says Pauline Springett

**C**ONSOLIDATION of the life insurance sector gained momentum yesterday with the announcement that Refuge and United Friendly were joining forces — at a cost of nearly 2,000 jobs. The merged company, to be called United Assurance, will have a market capitalisation of about £1.5 billion, making it the fourth largest of the so-called "home service" life insurers, in terms of premium income. Home service insurance is traditionally sold to lower-income families by doorstep agents. The merger will mean the loss of about 1,800 of the combined workforce of 7,500. John McLachlan, United Friendly's group investment director, said the company hoped to avoid compulsory redundancies through natural wastage, voluntary redundancies and retirements. United Friendly's head office in London will be closed. The new head office will be at Refuge's headquarters in Wilmsholme, Cheshire. A small investment team will be kept in London and United Friendly's existing general insurance division will remain in Redhill.



For life... United's George Mack (left) becomes chief executive of new company and John Cudworth, of Refuge, its chairman

The complex merger deal will result in United Friendly shareholders holding a 53 per cent stake in the new company, with Refuge's shareholders owning the balance. United Assurance will have about 6.6 million policies. John Cudworth, Refuge's chief executive, will become non-executive chairman of United Assurance. George Mack, United Friendly's finance director and deputy chief executive, becomes chief executive of the new company. Mr McLachlan said

the merger should produce "significant" cost savings from next year. Analysts said the deal made sense for both companies, which would be able to operate more efficiently and be a stronger force in what is a fiercely competitive market. Policyholders would also eventually benefit from the lower costs. It also emerged that Refuge is to pay a special bonus of £112 million from surplus funds, 80 per cent of which will be due to policyholders.

About 1 million of Refuge's 1.6 million policyholders stand to benefit. They will not receive cash, but enhanced benefits when their policies mature. But only holders of with-profits policies or pensions schemes are due to receive the bonus. Refuge is also allocating £430 million of surplus funds to shareholders, and United Friendly £145 million. Again, the money will not be paid in cash, but invested to boost shareholders' returns. The past year has seen

three large mergers in the sector — General Accident with Provident Mutual, Halifax with Clerical Medical, and, more recently, Royal and Sun Alliance. Almost every company in the sector is rumoured to be in talks. For instance, the Prudential is looking for a life company, Guardian has been tipped as a takeover target, and enormous speculation surrounds a host of other players, such as Scottish Amicable, Friends Provident and NPL.

### The Top 8

Make players in doorstep selling of insurance to lower-income families

Rank	Company	1995 net premium income (£ million)
1	Prudential	2,947
2	CIS	908
3	Pearl	741
4	United Assurance	444
5	Britannic	333
6	Royal London	257
7	Liverpool Victoria	168
8	London & Manchester	154

Source: United Friendly

## Guardian Crossword No 20,727

Set by Janus

- Across**
- 1 Sculptor's medium for doing a bust of Mohammed Ali? (9,4)
  - 10 Show about one actor? (7)
  - 11 Sailor (not a revolutionary) from Italian port? (7)
  - 12 Part of kitchen ceiling in the future? (5)
  - 13 He throws quite a mean dart in the man? (9)
  - 14 Cuts down spare plot? (5)
  - 15 Battle-helmet? (9)
  - 16 Too impetuous to have story retold? (9)
  - 19 Ten having same external order in tests? (5)
  - 20 Reminiscing about one's vocation...? (9)
  - 23 ...and a characteristic bit of Russian accommodation? (5)
  - 24 Provider of entertainment in Spanish province? (7)
- Down**
- 2 Find one's bearings at Eastern tea ceremony? (9)
  - 3 Lie about Lawrence's chosen part? (5)
  - 4 Forest denizen of singular character? (5)
  - 5 Of course aunt will be disturbed by demonstration? (9)
  - 6 Be concerned about a little cartridge-case? (9)
  - 7 Where girl may have a point? (5)
  - 8 Parental bravery shown in the theatre? (6,7)
  - 9 Seismic tremors of minor significance apparently? (2,5,6)
  - 18 Annotator who hails cost review? (9)
- Solution tomorrow**
- IF Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 239 222. Calls cost 35p per min, cheap rate, 45p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT3

## Reed buys £100m taster

**L**es Buckingham

**R**ED Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch business information group, yesterday paid £100 million for Tolley, the tax and legal publisher, but left the market convinced it has an acquisition some 30-times larger in its sights. The company said that, with net debts of just £247 million, its financial fire-power would allow a takeover of more than £2 billion. "The group's powerful ability to generate cash means it is quickly able to pay off the debts taken on with big acquisitions. In the past six months, for instance, operating profits covered its interest bill 19 times, compared

with eight times last year. As the group unveiled better-than-expected profits of £416 million, up 12 per cent in the six months to June, Reed said that Tolley — which it is buying from United News & Media — had been desired for about a decade. The business is being sold by United because it does not fit in with its strategy declared at the time of the merger with M&L that the combined group would concentrate on broadcasting, publishing and business. Reed executives refused to be drawn on whether further acquisitions were imminent, although they dismissed the possibility that Reed would bid for Reuters or Pearson. The group said that the ac-

quisition of Tolley, which made profits of \$4 million on sales of \$17 million last year, was a "perfect fit" with Reuters, its legal publishing business. The purchase is in line with the group strategy to target high value-added assets, professional and business information markets in developed countries. Reed admitted that its travel information operation had been slow to anticipate the migration to electronic publishing. Its UK consumer books business — withdrawn from sale after failing to secure a buyer — had also suffered but other businesses in the group's stable, notably the highly successful Lexis-Nexis acquisition, had offset any pressures.

## Consumer protection group loses third of staff in government cuts

**O**NE-THIRD of the staff at the National Consumer Council are to be made redundant following sweeping budget cuts imposed by the Government. Created to give disadvantaged and inarticulate consumers a voice in policy making, the NCC said last night the cuts would mean its work would suffer. Referring to upheavals in financial services and the gas, water, telecoms and electricity markets, acting director John Ward said the cuts were "very damaging to a small organisation". The moves come as the Government presses ahead with plans to open the do-

mestic gas and electricity markets to full competition. There is also company restructuring under way, with some observers believing that utilities will combine to offer several services under one roof. The cuts will affect policy makers and support staff. Before the budget cuts began three years ago, NCC employed 45 people in its central policy-making office. Through natural wastage nine posts have already gone. The council is now proposing to axe another 12 posts while creating three new ones. Government funding cuts have also been imposed on Citizens Advice Bureau,

**Kipper Williams**

National Consumer Council

SUPPLY WE'RE DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE

LET'S WANT SHARED

Gas Consumers Council and Post Office Users Councils.

The NCC will set back on work on food, agriculture and pharmaceuticals. It has already rained back work on housing and education.

England's attack on the race

Squandere  
Inside